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New York

President:	Mr. Aliyev	(Azerbaijan)
Members:	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Ms. Londoño
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Westerwelle
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Amrani
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zmeevsky
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Ohin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations

Letter dated 1 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/281)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Her Excellency Ms. Susan Rice, Permanent Representative of the United States, for her service as President of the Security Council for the month of April 2012. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Rice and her delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations

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The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/281, which contains a letter dated 1 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General, containing a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I wish to welcome the presence at this meeting of the Secretary-General, the Ministers and other participants. Their presence today is an affirmation of the importance of the subject that is to be discussed.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

I thank the Security Council presidency of Azerbaijan for having convened this timely debate. Next month, the General Assembly will conduct the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted six years ago. The issues that we will discuss today can contribute to a good outcome of that review.

Terrorism is a significant threat to peace and security, prosperity and people. The international community continues to pursue a robust and comprehensive response.

Collective efforts have disrupted attacks and disabled terrorist networks. But recent attacks in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria and Yemen have demonstrated that the threat is still formidable. Terrorist organizations continue to look for new havens, adopt new tactics and seek new targets.

Today I would like to make three points.

First, we need to focus special attention on conditions that are conducive to spreading terrorism. In the Sahel region, for example, instability and violence have recently increased, in part as fallout from developments in Libya. The fact-finding mission I sent last December has provided a valuable assessment of the situation in the Sahel and the impact of the crisis in Libya on the region, along with recommendations for mobilizing international support, building capacity and improving coordination among key stakeholders.

Secondly, we must pursue the integrated approach to terrorism and violent extremism embodied in the Global Strategy. That means countering the appeal of terrorism, strengthening capacity-building and protecting human rights as a central part of our response. It means resolving differences peacefully, providing education and job opportunities, promoting development and intercultural dialogue, and addressing the grievances that terrorists exploit.

It also means promoting respect for human rights and respect for the rule of law, which are integral to any sustainable counter-terrorism approach. The Council and the General Assembly both have endorsed this principle. Countering terrorism also means recognizing and alleviating the suffering of victims.

My third point is actually a request. I urge Member States to make full use of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The bodies created by the Council have played a critical role in the Task Force; these include the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee and the expert staff of the 1540 Committee. The Task Force is a valuable tool for creating an integrated response for capacity-building and for sharing best practices.

In combating terrorism, the international community must also work as one. That is why I hope that Member States will decide to create the position of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator to promote better coordination, collaboration and cooperation among all players.

The newly established United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office, serves a critical role in supporting Member States in all areas under the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I am grateful for the contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Centre, and I would like to encourage all participants to contribute to our efforts.

I will be participating in the Advisory Board meeting of the Centre early in June.

By working together in undertakings ranging from strengthening law enforcement to tackling the underlying drivers of extremism, we can greatly reduce this major threat to peace and security.

I wish the Council a productive debate.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Westerwelle (Germany): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the Republic of Azerbaijan on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of May. Let me also thank you for having convened today's debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

Over the past decade, the Security Council has shown remarkable resolve in countering terrorism. Significant resolutions have been adopted. Member States have adopted effective countermeasures. Our sanctions regimes have weakened terrorists' resources. As Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, Germany remains committed to working with all Member States to confront the threats posed.

Although we have been successful in disrupting terrorist structures, we must not relent in our efforts. Recent attacks in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Iraq are evidence of terrorists' persistence. Terrorism cannot be associated with a certain ideology, religion or ethnic affiliation. The threat of international terrorism is evolving, and we must adapt our responses to the new patterns.

Consequently, Germany strongly advocates a further strengthening of international cooperation and capacity-building. We thus welcome the most recent report (A/66/762) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Let me make three points.

First, strategies and measures to counter terrorism must always be based on the respect of human rights and the principles of the rule of law. These are the core values of the United Nations. Our measures need to be effective, but they are self-defeating when they jeopardize the very principles they aim to protect. We cannot protect our values by sacrificing them in the same effort.

Secondly, the sanctions regimes of the United Nations need to be a leading example of fair and transparent procedures. The countering of terrorism and adherence to the rule of law are mutually reinforcing goals. For several years, Germany has been advocating improvements in this area. We attach great importance to the Office of the Ombudsperson which, in the framework of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, is mandated to receive de-listing requests from individuals. We commend the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberley Prost, and the Council for the work done so far. We encourage the Council to continue on this route and to consider options for further enhancing fair and clear procedures when implementing counter-terrorism measures.

Thirdly, the face and methods of international terrorism are changing. The internet is increasingly abused by terrorist groups for incitement and recruitment. In Germany, a terrorist group went unnoticed for many years as it used the Internet to plan vicious attacks and recruit supporters. In response, we need to reduce virtual hiding places for terrorists, and we need to counter incitement. Identifying effective measures while ensuring full respect for fundamental freedoms is a challenge for all of us. We support the pilot projects of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. More needs to be done in this field. We will succeed only if the whole international community works together.

Let us take advantage of today's debate to send a strong message of our determination. We will counter the threat of international terrorism collectively. We will adapt our instruments to address the evolving nature and the root causes of terrorism. Only enhanced civil liberties, economic prosperity and a chance for political participation can counter the appeal of terrorism in the long run. The basis for all our actions is the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Mr. Ohin (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by wishing you, Sir, a cordial welcome to New York and conveying to you the warm greetings of your counterpart in Togo, President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé. Your presence at the United Nations today reflects your interest in the issue of counter-terrorism, which remains an ongoing concern and a major challenge to all States. I should therefore like to thank your country, Azerbaijan, for having chosen the theme of today's debate and to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month.

I should also like to reiterate our warmest thanks to the United States delegation for its outstanding work in the very busy month of April. Lastly, I thank the Secretary-General not only for his briefing on the issue at hand, but also for the various actions that have been undertaken under United Nations auspices to promote the fight against terrorism.

Terrorism remains one of the greatest threats to the peace and security of peoples and nations. The attacks, abductions, hostage-taking, hijackings of aircraft and killings committed and claimed by terrorists are serious violations of human rights, including the rights to life and to live free from fear. The declared desire of terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction heightens the gravity of the threat posed by a scourge to which all continents and countries are exposed.

Terrorists adapt to measures adopted by States to counter them and to that end use new technologies not only as tools for training, recruitment and the financing and planning of attacks, but also as propaganda media to broadcast and justify their actions. These threats have grown increasingly complex and compelled our States to devote significant resources to fighting terrorism at a time when they are already facing many critical challenges linked to the fight against poverty and inequality.

Africa, like the other continents, has known and lived with terrorism. It has paid a heavy price for criminal acts, such as those increasingly perpetrated in Nigeria and the Sahel region by the Islamic sects of Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and other criminal groups. The same applies to the terrorist acts being committed in Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania — in a word, everywhere where fundamentalist groups have chosen this way of making themselves heard.

It is important to note that terrorism in Africa is often fuelled by religious fundamentalism and ethnicity. Based on beliefs and dogmas, on the one hand, and on a sense of common ancestry, on the other, it is in every case the violent expression of intransigence and intolerance towards citizens on a continent that is otherwise characterized more markedly than anywhere else by religious and cultural syncretism.

In Africa, terrorist groups increasingly exploit one of the continent's vulnerabilities — its immense State territories, where a lack of control favours the establishment of training camps. Given that reality and the rise in such actions, in the course of its presidency of the Security Council in February Togo drew the international community's attention to the threats that continue to be posed by the transnational organized crime that is clearly linked to terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel region (see S/PV.6717).

We cannot overemphasize that, regardless of the reasons offered by the authors of such acts, there can be no justification for terrorist acts perpetrated against people and public and private property. We must therefore combat the scourge by all legal means.

Aware of the threat looming over our countries, Togo has made counter-terrorism a major priority of its security policy, which is fully aligned with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Important measures have been taken to strengthen existing legal institutional mechanisms. For instance, on 6 July 2007 we enacted a law against money-laundering, and another on 7 September 2009 against the financing of terrorism, allowing my country to join relevant international conventions. However, the key measure was our establishment on March 2008 of a national cell for the processing of financial information, whose role consists, inter alia, of detecting and halting money-laundering activities and of coordinating national counter-terrorism mechanisms.

At the subregional level, Togo participates in the legal apparatus adopted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to coordinate the fight against this scourge. These include the Protocol for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, Peace and Security, aimed at strengthening subregional cooperation in several fields, including international terrorism; the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, which was created in 1999 and whose mandate was revised in 2006 to incorporate counter-terrorism financing; the Conflict Prevention Framework adopted in January 2008 to help the subregion to address the interrelated challenges of cross-border crime, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and political, security and economic governance; and the first Regional Action Plan of 2009 on drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse.

These subregional structures, which reflect the commitment of the leaders of West Africa to tackling terrorism, have complemented and strengthened the many legal instruments and mechanisms that the African Union has adopted to facilitate and promote concerted and effective action against terrorism. These measures include the adoption of the 1999 Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 Protocol Additional, and the establishment of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, which form a framework for promoting interaction and cooperation among African States and regional mechanisms.

The fight against terrorism calls for hard work based on, among other things, collective action and intelligence sharing to find and identify the perpetrators of the threat, to pinpoint their locations and to understand their strategies and goals. That work, which requires numerous skills and significant funding, cannot be carried out without cooperation. National initiatives must therefore complement those of other nations and fall within a framework of bilateral, regional and international cooperation and sharing of lessons learned.

Fortunately, the international community has at its disposal many legal mechanisms and instruments for the maintenance of peace and security that can for the most part be used in the fight against terrorism. The adoption of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004); the 16 global United Nations conventions to combat specific forms of terrorism around the world; and the 2006 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy — all of which call for international actions to prevent and punish terrorist acts — speak for the resolute international will to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Through the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy — on which all counter-terrorism initiatives are founded — the international community has strengthened its capacities in surveillance, cooperation, coordination and harmonization of policies and practices for the prevention and suppression of terrorism.

Today, the greatest challenge for the international community is not to adopt a judicial framework for the fight against terrorism. Rather, it lies in our ability to enact in a coordinated, efficient and effective way the many regional, continental and global instruments already in place. We must demonstrate a greater and unwavering resolve to prevent and combat terrorism, because when it takes root it can strike any and every country.

In that regard, the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (A/59/565, annex), convened by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2003, states that what threatens the security of any nation threatens the security of all nations, weak or strong. No State, no matter how powerful, can face alone the border-defying threat of terrorism. Cooperation must be our guiding principle in our fight to safeguard domestic and international security. Ongoing cooperation offers the advantages of sharing information about types of terrorist attacks and of finding ways to cut off its funding and weakening its networks. Synergy and information-sharing among the various institutions engaged in the fight, as well as technical and financial aid, are essential in the short and medium terms to eradicating this relentless threat to all nations and all peoples.

The most vulnerable countries, and those with the most limited resources, require capacity-building in surveillance, effective monitoring of the movement of people and goods across their borders, detecting prohibited items, confiscating dangerous materials and depriving terrorists of safe havens.

It is sad to note that one of the assets terrorists enjoy is their networks actively cooperate within one another, whereas States are often slow to find their way to mutually beneficial cooperation. Togo believes that only joint initiatives at the bilateral, regional and international levels — all the while respecting the principles of independence and territorial integrity — offer hope for an effective fight against terrorism.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening and chairing this important meeting, and for focusing our attention on the threat to international peace and security caused by terrorism.

Today's meeting could not be more timely. We meet today one year after the death of Osama bin Laden. His death was an important milestone in the fight against Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, but it did not remove the scourge of terrorism from our world. The resilience of terrorist networks means that our collective fight against terrorism must continue. Today's meeting underscores the Security Council's unwavering commitment to countering terrorism and reminds us of the work we have left to do.

Though Al-Qaida has experienced major setbacks, its affiliates and other violent extremist groups continue to operate and pose significant threats. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula has expanded its reach in Yemen and looks to launch attacks abroad. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is exploiting and sowing instability in the Sahel, particularly in Mali. Al-Shabaab, which publicly pledged allegiance to Al-Qaida early this year, continues to destabilize the Horn of Africa and deny vital humanitarian relief to those in need.

In Nigeria, elements of Boko Haram have perpetrated widespread attacks, including against United Nations personnel. In New Delhi, Tblisi and elsewhere, we have seen new and recurring acts of violence against diplomats. Terrorist threats continue to emanate from and affect every region of the world. The United States joins others in condemning terrorist acts everywhere they occur.

Terrorist groups continue to evolve and adapt. Some have also become criminal enterprises in their own right. AQIM, for example, has created an environment of fear and instability by adopting kidnapping for ransom to finance its terrorist operations. Kidnapping for ransom is a growing threat to international peace and security and will pose significant challenges to the international community in the years ahead.

To counter the ongoing threat posed by terrorists, President Obama has adopted a strategic, comprehensive approach that combines every tool of American power — civilian, military and economic, together with the power of our values — with the concerted effort of allies, partners and multilateral institutions. Only by addressing the drivers of radicalization, and doing so together, can we prevent local threats from becoming regional and global ones requiring a much more costly response. Therefore we are taking determined action worldwide to stop material support for terrorists, counter violent extremism, reduce recruitment and radicalization, and empower our partners to do so as well.

Last week, the United States chaired a thematic debate in this Chamber on securing borders against illicit trafficking and movement (see S/PV.6760). The Council adopted presidential statement S/PRST/2012/16, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the various United Nations structures and activities, and to consider how the United Nations system can respond more effectively to Member States' requests for assistance. The United States seeks to help countries build enduring civilian institutions, underpinned by human rights and the rule of law, which can effectively combat terrorism as well as the drivers of violent extremism. The recently launched Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, aimed at promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, is catalysing those efforts. The United States is committed to strengthening partnerships at the United Nations and other multilateral organizations to combat terrorism. The development of the United Nations counter-terrorism framework over the past decade has been significant. The United Nations has played an important role in building consensus around a global counter-terrorism strategy and delivering technical assistance to bolster civilian counter-terrorism capacities worldwide.

We encourage the United Nations to build upon its valuable contributions, which include the recent establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator and further unify the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture to ensure that expertise and resources are deployed as efficiently as possible.

Civil society, particularly victims and victims associations, has played a powerful role in counter-terrorism prevention efforts. We encourage relevant parts of the United Nations system, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to intensify their engagement with and support for civil society worldwide in the coming years.

The United States strongly supports all of these United Nations efforts and looks forward to continuing to work together in common cause within the Council and the broader international community to prevent and combat terrorism wherever and in whatever form it occurs.

Mr. Armani (Morocco): I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Republic of Azerbaijan for convening this important and timely meeting. The initiative demonstrates the importance that your country attaches to strengthening international cooperation against terrorism.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement and commend him for his personal commitment to strengthen United Nations leadership in combating terrorism. The Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, held in September 2011, produced concrete recommendations that were a welcome development.

We are now looking forward to engaging constructively in the upcoming discussions on new proposals that seek to further enhance coherence and effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, including the establishment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

Our debate today is taking place in an international context marked by clear progress in many counter-terrorism fields. We are encouraged by the results achieved so far in many areas. However, terrorist acts continue to occur, and a significant number of terrorist plots are foiled each year in various regions. That provides clear evidence that the terrorist threat persists and our mobilization and cooperation should be sustained in that connection.

Indeed, despite all our efforts, terrorism remains a pressing challenge and one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The international efforts to combat terrorism are essential, and they must maintain the same determination and commitment. In that regard, the United Nations remains the appropriate and legitimate framework for Member States to adopt multilateral responses to terrorism.

The Security Council, within its mandate of maintaining international peace and security, has taken important steps against terrorism and continues to strengthen the work of its counter-terrorism bodies through a number of additional resolutions.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, represents the most comprehensive and effective decision taken by the international community to eliminate that dangerous threat and to improve United Nations action to that end. We are now looking forward to its third review, which will provide an additional opportunity to consider an improved and more effective translation of its four pillars into concrete actions and measures.

The role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in implementing the Strategy must be further strengthened. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre was established during the current session of the General Assembly, thanks to initial funding from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and it constitutes an important mechanism allowing the Task Force to further develop its capacity-building activities and enhance international coordination in the field of counter-terrorism.

The establishment of the Centre in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provides an important tool, and we are committed to working together with the King of Saudi Arabia and other members of the Centre's Advisory Board to achieve its important objectives.

Morocco fully shares the resolute determination of the international community to stand firm and united in the fight against terrorism. On that basis, Morocco has established a comprehensive and multidimensional counter-terrorism approach that converges with the United Nations strategy and complies with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with other relevant United Nations resolutions and international legal instruments to which Morocco is party.

The proactive Moroccan approach was successfully translated into firm and preventive law-enforcement measures, as well as national initiatives aimed at addressing the numerous social, economic and cultural factors that are at the root of violent and extremist ideologies.

Our approach is based on a number of factors. The total rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations by all Moroccan citizens has been of vital importance. Morocco's long-standing commitment to the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence has remained strong and has also played a key role within our society. Above all, it is Morocco's firm determination to pursue its irreversible democratic path — paved with genuine reforms with human development as the driving force — which has provided the best protection against the spread of extremist and violent ideologies.

Yet no matter how successful, actions pursued by individual States cannot manage to face alone the scope, diversity and continuous sophistication of the terrorist threat. Despite all our efforts, terrorism remains a real cross-border threat that can strike any region and any nation, regardless of its religion, culture or level of development. For that reason, nothing can replace an effective and coordinated international commitment to cooperate against terrorism.

Morocco has consistently expressed its deep concern with regard to the spread of terrorist activities in the neighbouring subregions, namely West Africa and the Sahel region, but also in the Gulf of Guinea and in the Horn of Africa. Our continent has in recent years witnessed an increase not only in the frequency but also in the degree of sophistication of violent acts committed by terrorist networks, often striking in areas already faced with many difficulties and socio-economic problems, especially environmental and food security challenges, and unresolved conflicts. Thus, these terrorist activities have dramatically increased the number of innocent victims, undermined the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and threatened regional stability as a whole.

Recent developments have also confirmed that there is an established interconnection between terrorist groups, separatist movements and criminal networks involved in arms, drugs and human trafficking, as well as piracy and kidnapping activities. This interconnection has allowed terrorist networks to tap into the financial resources arising from illicit cross border flows, and consequently to enhance their operational capabilities and even expand their control, in some instances, over territories of sovereign States.

The Council has repeatedly expressed its concern and condemnation of the presence of and attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups in these regions. Today, there is an urgent need to establish a sustainable framework for dialogue, cooperation and solidarity that encompasses all States concerned with the security and stability in the region in order to address in a holistic manner the political, security and human development dimensions of the region. Priority should also be given to development. Narrow political calculations must give way to shared responsibility and constructive partnership, particularly in the case of West Africa and the Sahel. Without partnership and shared responsibility, we cannot move forward.

Consistent with its long-standing commitment to peace and security in Africa, Morocco has been an active partner in assisting other African countries in enhancing their individual and collective capacities to face terrorist groups, as well as the numerous transnational organized crime networks with which they are affiliated. In this regard, the Conference of Justice Ministers of Francophone African Countries for the implementation of universal instruments against terrorism and the Ministerial Conference of African-Atlantic States represent key initiatives to which Morocco actively contributes. Morocco will also host the second edition of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Border Security, following the first meeting held in Tripoli last March, which comprises a number of States of North Africa and the Sahel region.

In line with this commitment, Morocco will spare no effort in continuing to support all initiatives aiming at building genuine partnership and mutual confidence conducive to effective regional and international cooperation. Within these parameters, we are equally committed to contributing to the activities of the Global Counter-terrorism Forum in a manner that complements and reinforces existing multilateral counter-terrorism efforts, in particular those conducted by the United Nations.

In conclusion, we are deeply convinced that the United Nations should remain the universal framework to reinforce our clear and strong message that the international community stands united in expressing our rejection of all violent ideologies and in working together to promote dialogue among our civilizations and to prevent the stigmatization and indiscriminate targeting of particular religious groups in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Mr. Zmeevsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, I should like to thank you, Sir, and the Azerbaijani presidency for your initiative to convene this high-level meeting of the Security Council on the very urgent theme of strengthening international cooperation in combating the global threat of terrorism.

Terrorism knows no borders. On the eve of this meeting, we have received reports of terrorist acts in the Russian Federation and Nigeria, as a result of which once again dozens of innocent people have suffered. We offer our condolences to the victims and their family members, and our solidarity with them.

Terrorism has no justification, no matter how you seek to embellish it. It is a universal plague that should be condemned and recognized everywhere as a criminally punishable act, while those who participate in terrorist acts must be recognized as criminals and receive their just punishment. That unshirkable responsibility is a fundamental principle of international cooperation in effectively combating terrorism, enshrined in the basic United Nations counter-terrorism conventions.

The Russian Federation views today's meeting as yet another development in the strengthening the central coordinated role of the United Nations in our systemic counter-terrorism work. Over the past few years, we have established under United Nations leadership a broad infrastructure of global cooperation in this area that incorporates dozens of international organizations and regional associations. We have significantly strengthened the international legal basis for combating terrorism, and active work continues towards the establishment and promotion of norms and standards in this field. The new level cooperation among law enforcement agencies has allowed us significantly to damage terrorist infrastructure and to shut down many of its financing channels.

Unfortunately, not only has the terrorist threat not abated, but it has recently acquired a new dimension and gravity. Against the backdrop of highly inconsistent and incomplete processes in North Africa, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, we have seen a notable escalation of terrorist threats and a more regional focus on the part of Al-Qaida and related groups. Terrorist partnerships with criminal groups have grown stronger, with aim of establishing cross-border criminal channels for the drug trade, illegal migration, human trafficking and weapons smuggling. It has become clear that this will lead not only to a substantial strengthening of terrorist cells, but also to a dangerously broad transmission of a new ideology that intensifies violence and extremism and exacerbates interreligious and interethnic conflict. There is also still real potential for growth in the terrorist threat in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region, thanks to the stimulus provided by the illegal trade in opiates.

In such conditions, we are increasingly dependent on the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the General Assembly, which has flexibly combined traditional methods of law enforcement and prevention and has attacked the socio-economic roots of terrorism, and in so doing has strengthened the legal framework and observance of human rights.

The Security Council now faces the challenge of responding in a timely and appropriate manner to the shifting challenges of terrorism. Our response must be strengthened by effective and comprehensive steps to ensure the implementation by Member States of the Council's decisions, develop a dialogue among them, and provide them with the necessary assistance. We believe that serious attention should be focused on the following areas.

First, we must do out utmost to strengthen the legal basis of counter-terrorism, broaden the circle of participants in counter-terrorist conventions, and ensure the strict implementation of all their undertakings and their nationalization through legislation. One urgent priorities is the conclusion under United Nations auspices of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Secondly, we must undertake counter-terrorist cooperation on a pre-emptive basis, focusing on the prevention of terrorism. In the context of the theme of today's meeting, the greatest threat posed to international peace and security is that posed by terrorism based on mass destruction. Steps to prevent nuclear terrorism are extremely critical in that regard. It is necessary to ensure the greater participation of States in the core conventions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency in a global initiative to combat acts of nuclear terrorism and compliance with the decisions of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. In meeting those challenges, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) must play an important role.

To deprive terrorists of social support, we must make additional efforts that include an economic factor, through law enforcement bodies. Such contributions to job creation could be carried out not only by States, but by United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), together with organizations that are specialized in economic assistance, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe; and regional associations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Such synergy would turn a new page in the efforts of the international donor community, through combining development assistance with efforts to counter-terrorism and fight criminals. No less important are the continued efforts to halt the financial flows that fuel terrorism, including those resulting from the participation by heads of narco businesses and other types of organized crime in such activities.

A remaining issue of great urgency found in resolution 1624 (2005), is the challenge to counter the ideology of terrorism and establish an atmosphere within the international community conducive to its total rejection. The struggle for the hearts and minds of people must be carried out through strengthened intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding among civilizations and religions and by firmly curbing incitement to terrorism in all its aspects.

We must establish effective cooperation with civil society in order to neutralize at the earliest stages any manifestation of violent extremism or terrorism. The prohibition of any form of assistance to terrorists, including military, technical and financial is an international imperative. States that ignore that obligation will see their actions backfire in the end, at the cost of lives of their own civilians.

Effectively countering terrorism is impossible without strengthening the potential of the forces to fight it. The continued assistance of international agencies to interested States is important in developing and improving counter-terrorism legislation and training staff. Crucial support to counter-terrorism efforts results from skilled analyses of the phenomenon, including its strengthening ties with organized crime, narco-trafficking and piracy, as well as newly developing trends such as individualized terrorism or self-radicalization.

We need to strengthen the scientific analytical capability of the relevant United Nations agencies by providing them with a more practical orientation. A successful such example is the UNODC's survey on terrorism.

Thirdly, it is extremely important to develop a consolidated response to new terrorist challenges, including in cyberspace. Practical actions to implement the Security Council requirement on closing down terrorism propaganda websites, for example the Caucasus Centre website of the terrorist organization known as the Caucasus Emirate, must be supplemented by developing a global treaty to counter the use of cyberspace for terrorism and other criminal purposes.

Adopting reliable international criteria is crucial in defending tourists from terrorists and other criminal assaults. Motivation for that has been provided by the recently concluded Vienna session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We look forward to the involvement of many States and leading agencies of the United Nations, regional organizations and the business community.

As part of the public-private partnership, another project is being drawn up by the UNODC and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to cut off the flows of precious metals into the hands of terrorists and other criminals.

A partnership with business is useful also for developing effective measures to ensure the rights of the victims of terrorism, including compensatory payments based on transnational systems for insurance and reinsurance relating to mega-terrorist acts.

Fourthly, we must not overlook improving the work and the working methods of the United Nations counter-terrorism bodies. We must continue to strengthen the capability of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which monitors implementation by Member States of the basic text on counter-terrorism activities, namely, resolution 1373 (2001).

The Russian Federation supports the work of the CTC in improving assessment mechanisms, preparing a global review on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and resolution 1624 (2005), broadening the international counter-terrorism agenda by countering the incitement of terrorist acts and strengthening dialogue among civilizations.

The continuing practice of country visits by the CTC remains one of the key instruments of monitoring the achievements and prospective work of States to strengthen national anti-terrorism capabilities and to analyse best practices. The Russian Federation is planning to host a visit of the CTED in October.

We need further steps in order to improve the effectiveness and capacities of the Council's sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and the Taliban. As a result of the reform in June 2011, we have been able to ensure greater transparency and adopt procedures with greater flexibility with respect to de-listing, which should not weaken the capabilities of the counter-terrorism regime, which could in turn cause some States to depart from compliance with their sanctions obligations.

Given the increased activity by regional terrorist groups of Al-Qaida, especially in North Africa, and their broadening ties with other criminal organizations, measures are necessary to spread the counter-terrorism sanctions regime to new individuals and entities.

The urgent challenges include the full implementation of resolution 2017 (2011), adopted on the initiative of the Russian Federation to counter the uncontrolled spread of Libyan weapons. The Russian delegation has, on many occasions, drawn the Council's attention to that significant threat, possibly including man-portable air defence systems and other dangerous weapons falling into the hands of terrorists. The paths of those weapons have turned from veins into arteries joining terrorist groups with criminal organizations and separatist movements and thus strengthening their destructive capacities.

The most vigorous measures are necessary in order to implement resolution 2017 (2011) with the support of the Sahel Saharan States and further work in various international forums, including the Rome-Lyon Group of Eight and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

Fifthly, the United Nations deserves great credit for the increased level of cooperation at the regional level through the establishment of feedback mechanisms in cooperation with operational counter-terrorist agencies. We highly appreciate the efforts in the fight against terrorism of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the NATO-Russia Council, the Organization of American States, the Latin American Reserve Fund, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others. Together we will work with partners to increase our contribution to counter-terrorism efforts under the aegis of the CSTO, SCO and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We welcome the presidential statement to be adopted at the end of today's meeting. It is aimed at developing counter-terrorism cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations. The Russian Federation vigorously condemns terrorism in all its aspects and will continue to contribute to that work through strengthening international cooperation based on trust and strict adherence to the principles of international law.

Ms. Londoño (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and your country, Azerbaijan, which I had the privilege of visiting a few months ago. I would like to congratulate you for presiding over the Security Council and convening this important debate on a subject of important relevance worldwide. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement on the issue.

Terrorism is a threat to international peace and security. It affects society as a whole, including the rule of law and the enjoyment of human rights. The human costs of terrorism are felt throughout the world. Therefore, the international community must address that many-faceted threat through coordinated action aimed at all levels and aspects of terrorism.

Over the course of decades, the international community has developed a body of law that includes 14 international treaties and four modifying protocols that address specific aspects and acts of terrorism. In addition, the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council provide a comprehensive framework that addresses terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Although we have not agreed on a definition of terrorism, we have made progress in identifying the key elements of acts that the international community considers to be terroristic and condemns as unjustifiable in any circumstances, be they of a political, ideological, racial, religious or any other nature.

Terrorism and other threats to international peace and security have several phases, dimensions and complexities that we must address through international consensus and cooperation, as highlighted in the concept note prepared by the Azerbaijani delegation (S/2012/281, annex). Since this is a phenomenon with global implications, the United Nations and especially the General Assembly, as its universal organ, should be the focal point for discussing policy agreements and cooperation. In turn, the Security Council, operating within own purview, has adopted measures that contribute to and complement international action against terrorism.

There are other forums for dialogue and the identification of best practices that should work closely with the United Nations. Among them, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum has identified specific areas of cooperation and best practices that have great value to all States in their fight against terrorism.

Among the various existing mechanisms that address the threat in a coordinated way, I stress the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an effective tool for preventing, punishing and eradicating the scourge of terrorism. While recognizing capacity-building as an essential element of global action against terrorism, the Strategy is dedicated to adopting decisive measures to enhance coordination and coherence within the United Nations system in order to promote international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

In that context, the development and strengthening of national legislation and the consolidation of mechanisms for cooperation and capacity-building are crucial complements to the Global Strategy. The Organization should take further steps to provide technical assistance in order to facilitate the strengthening of national capacities.

States should guarantee that the counter-terrorism measures they adopt comply with all their obligations under international law and in particular with human rights. That includes the adoption of measures to protect the rights of victims and compensation for their suffering, which should be seen as a crucial aspect of the fight against terrorism. In that regard, we note the emphasis accorded to human rights in resolutions 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010).

Terrorism does not exist in isolation from transnational organized crime. There are networks whose funds derive in large measure from the activities of organized crime, including drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, illegal mining, extortion, kidnapping or piracy.

By its very nature, the financing of terrorist acts is a matter on which the international community should take more effective measures. In order to prevent terrorist networks from accumulating the financial and logistical resources necessary to operate, we need to develop comprehensive measures that incorporate elements of the legal instruments that address transnational organized crime. Funding derived from various crimes creates new scenarios that require States to join forces in order to design comprehensive strategies to address both the problem and its solution.

My country believes that the adoption, implementation and promotion of cooperation frameworks offer an effective response to terrorism. Colombia is an active participant in new and varied mechanisms of regional and multilateral cooperation. In addition to the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, we have worked with countries of Central America, the Caribbean and, more recently, Africa to share experiences and build capacities to combat transnational crimes that are linked in one way or another to terrorism.

We believe that the international community has an obligation to continue its head-on struggle against terrorism.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I congratulate Azerbaijan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I appreciate Azerbaijan's initiative in convening this high-level briefing on counter-terrorism. I welcome President Aliyev's leadership of today's meeting.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Azerbaijan's accession to United Nations membership. Azerbaijan is also serving as a non-permanent member of the Security Council this year. Over the past 20 years, Azerbaijan has made tremendous efforts and scored tremendous achievements in national development, and it is playing an increasingly important role in United Nations affairs. It has contributed positively to the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. China would like to express its warm appreciation. I also welcome today's briefing by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Terrorism is a common threat to the international community. China condemns terrorism and resolutely supports efforts to combat it in all its forms and manifestations. The international community has made tremendous efforts in combating terrorism, but terrorism is far from having been eradicated. It still seriously threatens international peace and security and it has evolved in form and means. With regard to strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation, I would like to stress four points.

First, Member States should uphold unified standards on the issue of counter-terrorism. Terrorist acts, regardless of their motives, wherever and by whomever they are committed, should be unequivocally opposed and addressed with firm measures. Double standards must be rejected in the effort to combat terrorism. The international community should oppose any form of incitation to or support for terrorism. Adopting inconsistent positions on the basis of one's own interest will serve only to shield or connive with terrorism, defeating the purpose of counter-terrorism and undermining international cooperation in that regard.

Secondly, we must address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism through integrated measures. Terrorism emanates from a complicated set of political, economic and social factors. Measures to combat it should focus on promoting development, eliminating polarization and social injustice, and appropriately resolving regional conflicts. Terrorism is often accompanied by the spread of separatism, extremism, violent hatred and intolerance. It should therefore be addressed in a holistic manner. Relying solely on military means may very well prove to be counter-productive.

Thirdly, to strengthen international cooperation on counter-terrorism, the United Nations and the Security Council should play a leading role. In the effort to combat terrorism, we must abide by the United Nations Charter and the basic norms of international law and respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States. China supports the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions and presidential statements. Coordination among various United Nations counter-terrorism bodies should also be strengthened. Counter-terrorism assistance to Member States should be based on respect for the will and choices of those States. China welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and hopes that it will provide important assistance to Member States in terms of capacity-building and technical assistance.

Fourthly, counter-terrorism efforts must be based on dialogue among civilizations and on the promotion of mutual understanding and tolerance. International cooperation on counter-terrorism should serve to promote dialogue and exchange among various civilizations, religions and ethnicities, as well as mutual respect and harmonious coexistence. We must not draw ideological lines in our counter-terrorism efforts, and we oppose linking terrorism with certain States, Governments, ethnicities or religions. We also oppose shielding or conniving with terrorism on the basis of any political, ethnic or religious pretexts.

China is the victim of terrorism and is facing various terrorist threats, primarily from elements of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement at home and abroad, as well as from other international terrorist groups and individuals. China is ready to participate actively in cooperation on counter-terrorism within the framework of the United Nations, and we will work untiringly to that end.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): We would like to extend a warm welcome to you, Mr. President. Your presence in presiding over this meeting testifies to your strong commitment to the work of the Security Council and the importance that we collectively attach to strengthening international cooperation on counter-terrorism. Let me therefore congratulate you and the delegation of Azerbaijan on your initiative of holding this meeting and on your sterling stewardship of the Council. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

No country has suffered as much from terrorism as Pakistan. Pakistan unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whoever commits it and wherever and against whomever it is committed. We also condemn the killing of civilians anywhere in the world, whether through terrorist activity or the use of unlawful or disproportionate force. All efforts to combat terrorism must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and comply fully with international law. All of us also agree that terrorism and extremism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture or society. No religious tradition or doctrine encourages or inspires acts of terrorism.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Coherence and coordination are necessary to the international community to succeed in its fight against terrorism. Towards that end, Pakistan supports a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy and its balanced implementation. The international community must address the root causes of terrorism, which include prolonged, unresolved conflicts, aggression, foreign occupation, denial of the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination, social and economic injustice, and political marginalization and alienation. Continuing to remain in denial about the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism will only be to our collective detriment. It is necessary to eschew policies that alienate people and make them vulnerable to extremism; it also necessary to tackle unemployment and promote economic and social development, particularly in regions challenged by extremism.

Pakistan fully supports the observance of legal principles in implementing counter-terrorism resolutions. We support reform of the procedures of the counter-terrorism-related committees of the Security Council in order to ensure due process. We welcome the recent efforts the Council has made in this regard through its appointment of an Ombudsperson to the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and expect that the process of reform will continue in order to further improve procedures.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has broadened the scope of counter-terrorism to include the larger endeavour of countering extremism through intercultural dialogue. It would help implementation of the Strategy if there were greater commitment to addressing the problem of defamation of certain religions, as well as to combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and discrimination based on religion or belief. In this increasingly globalized world, more than ever before we need better understanding, harmony and bridge-building among all cultures and peoples.

The United Nations has a special role to play in promoting international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. The Organization and its counter-terrorism bodies need coherent policies and better inter-agency coordination. We note that the Secretary-General, in his latest report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/762), has recommended that Member States consider appointing a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. We are ready and willing to analyse that recommendation in the framework of the General Assembly during the forthcoming review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. While we support the institutional coherence of the United Nations, we also emphasize the importance of respecting the mandates of the Organization's various organs, as outlined in the Charter.

We appreciate the positive contribution of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in improving the coordination of United Nations activities in the field of counter-terrorism. We hope that the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism, established through an initiative of Saudi Arabia, will help the CTITF enhance its coordination efforts.

The promotion of international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism is indeed a noble goal. Pakistan fulfils its international obligations, particularly its commitment to implementing the various counter-terrorism conventions, with great responsibility. We have ratified 10 of 13 United Nations conventions relating to terrorism, and are also a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted in 2000. Pakistan is party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and has enacted a landmark anti-money-laundering bill. A financial monitoring unit has been established in the State Bank of Pakistan to monitor suspicious financial transactions. Sixty-four bank accounts valued at 750 million Pakistani rupees have recently been frozen.

The international community has acknowledged Pakistan's role and sacrifice in the struggle against terrorism — a problem that has grown in intensity over the years due to the decades-long conflict and instability in Afghanistan. We need continued cooperation and support for our counter-terrorism efforts. Pakistan has deployed 160,000 troops on its border with Afghanistan and set up 822 border posts to interdict Al-Qaida and Taliban members. The international community has an obligation to remain committed to helping Afghanistan restore durable peace and stability.

To conclude, countering terrorism is a collective responsibility that should be discharged in a spirit of cooperation, understanding and an unwavering sense of our common humanity.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I congratulate Azerbaijan on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and you, Mr. President, for convening and presiding over today's meeting. Your presence here sends an important signal regarding the priority your country attaches to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. It is a priority that the United Kingdom shares.

The United Nations is at the forefront of the work to counter terrorism across the globe. We applaud those efforts, and the commitment to tackling terrorism shown by the United Nations and its Member States. Terrorism is a global phenomenon and requires a global response, which the United Nations is uniquely placed to lead. We welcome ongoing efforts to build on the legal framework for countering terrorism, addressing the conditions that can give rise to violent extremism and taking practical measures to prevent terrorist attacks.

I want to make two main points in today's debate. First, sanctions are a key instrument in the response of the United Nations to international terrorism, and the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, is fundamental to that. The United Kingdom welcomes the further improvements adopted to ensure that the procedures in the Al-Qaida sanctions regime continue to be fair and clear. The Al-Qaida sanctions Ombudsperson plays a particularly important role in that regard, and I take this opportunity to reiterate the United Kingdom's full support for the Office of the Ombudsperson. At the same time, sanctions must be implemented effectively and robustly. We therefore welcome all initiatives to reinforce Member States' capacity to that end.

Secondly, I want to highlight the importance of coordination — what the Secretary-General earlier called "working as one". There are a large number of international bodies involved in the global counter-terrorism effort. With such a level of activity, effective coordination is key.

Resources are necessarily limited, and we must make certain that we are getting the most out of all our good work. The Secretary-General's call for a counter-terrorism coordinator provides an excellent opportunity to shape the United Nations response to terrorism. It is an important step forward that the United Kingdom strongly supports. We must ensure that that position has the right mandate to bring cohesion and coherence to the United Nations counter-terrorism work. We need to think carefully how best to manage the resources in order to achieve that result.

In addition, we must maintain focus in our efforts. To that end, we welcome the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We hope that the themes covered in the review will help guide the strategic direction of the United Nations in its counter-terrorism efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its contribution towards establishing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

The United Nations has a unique and vital role in countering terrorism. Let me affirm that the United Kingdom will continue to work closely with all partners to ensure that the United Nations is properly equipped to deliver.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): At the outset, allow me to extend to you, Mr. President, a very warm welcome to the Security Council. Your presence in the Council is indeed a defining moment as Azerbaijan assumes the presidency of the Security Council for the first time in its history. I would also like to express our deep appreciation to you, Sir, and to your delegation for organizing today's meeting on this important subject of threats to peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and for chairing the meeting.

I would also like to acknowledge the participation of ministers and high officials of Germany, Togo, Colombia, Morocco and the Russian Federation in today's meeting. Their participation and valuable statements underscore the importance of the subject for the international community. Our thanks are also due to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and insightful briefing.

Today, terrorism constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace and security. Over the years, the visible landscape of international terrorism has changed vastly. In our globalized world, terrorists are also globalized in their reach and activities and are able to wage asymmetric warfare against the international community. Terrorists have established linkages with transnational organized crime, and their veritable nexus with drug, human and arms trafficking is now well established. Terrorist financing, illicit money-laundering, drug trafficking and the illicit arms trade remain intertwined in a complex web of toxic relationships.

There is also a growing risk of weapons of mass destruction of different kinds falling into the hands of terrorists, which will only exacerbate the existing grave security challenge to the international community. In today's Internet-based age, there is also increasing misuse of cyberspace and related technologies by terrorists and their supporters for the purposes of recruitment and training and the financing, planning, preparation and incitement of their activities.

An effective counter-terrorism strategy therefore requires greater international and regional cooperation than the international community has so far been able to achieve. International cooperation and concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors, including the complete dismantling of terrorist safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds and financial and ideological support structures, are the critical imperatives to defeat the scourge.

My own country, India, has faced the scourge of terrorism for several decades. Indeed, our entire region, South Asia, has been wracked by the activities of the biggest terrorist actors in the world, be they Al-Qaida, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, elements of the Taliban or others. Terrorism, extremism and radicalization continue to pose a serious challenge to peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

India condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of the motivation that may be invoked to justify them. We have been at the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts. India is part of the major global initiatives against international terrorism, including the Financial Action Task Force. We fully support all efforts that strengthen international and regional cooperation and that, most important, help to ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and a comprehensive and integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We also endorse the two consensus benchmarks that are reflected in the outcome document adopted on 28 September 2011 by the special meeting of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, which has been chaired by India since January 2011. The outcome document (S/2011/689, annex) is a major landmark in providing a strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening the capacity of States in their counter-terrorism efforts. It raises the benchmark in the fight against terrorism to a higher level, and urges all Member States to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism and to take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant international instruments. We urge all United Nations Member States to strive to implement that approach in their counter-terrorism efforts.

We believe that terrorism cannot be countered by law enforcement means alone. Prevention is also critical. Effective responses will necessarily include other aspects of legal and social policy, among which some of the key components are development, education, social integration, tolerance, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288) is a wholesome document that incorporates various aspects in its four pillars and provides guidance to Member States in implementing a global strategy in a balanced and integrated manner.

Despite the various daunting challenges in the fight against terrorism, significant progress has been made over the past decade by strengthening cooperation, enhancing solidarity and facilitating dialogue among Member States in their efforts to counter the terrorist threat. The United Nations has played a seminal role in the capacity-building of Member States. States need assistance to fulfil their obligations under the United Nations anti-terrorism conventions to which they are a party, as well as the Security Council counter-terrorism and other relevant resolutions. We commend the efforts and commitment of the relevant United Nations agencies, including the Security Council's subsidiary bodies, in developing the capacities of countries in that regard.

While the Security Council has remained steadfast in its fight against international terrorism, it must further enhance the level of international cooperation to counter the threat decisively. We encourage the subsidiary bodies of the Council with counter-terrorism mandates to continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity-building at the national, subregional and regional levels. We also welcome the recent initiative of the Secretary-General for Member States to consider the creation of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, and express our willingness to fully engage in all deliberations aimed at further improving the cross-institutional coherence and effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

India has long held the belief that the United Nations also needs to strengthen its counter-terrorism normative framework through the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. I can only echo the call of the Secretary-General that the time has come for such a convention to be adopted.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): Your personal presence here today, President Aliyev, is an expression of the importance your nation attaches to the global fight against the scourge of terrorism. My delegation welcomes you to the Council today and thanks you for presiding over this meeting. We also wish to acknowledge the presence of the various high-level delegations around the table today. We also thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

Terrorism remains a perennial threat to the world, and we believe it is apt for the Council continually to reassess the wide array of counter-terrorism measures at its disposal. South Africa condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The killing of innocent civilians is never acceptable. We are firmly committed to addressing the threat posed by international terrorism through multilateral forums and in accordance with human rights, international law and the United Nations Charter.

The United Nations has a pivotal role to play in coordinating international efforts to fight the deadly scourge of terrorism. It is important that Member States pool their resources in combating terrorism globally, and the multilateral system should be strengthened to deal with those efforts. We should also avoid the temptation to create parallel structures outside of the United Nations, which results in duplication, competition and the depletion of limited resources that could have been used to reinforce United Nations counter-terrorism global strategies.

South Africa is of the view that terrorism cannot be defeated militarily or unilaterally. There is an urgent need to focus on the deep-seated root causes of terrorism and to develop collaborative strategies to tackle the challenges of terrorism. In that regard, concerted and sustained efforts must be reinforced in order to resolve terrorism-related conflicts in all parts of the globe.

We are concerned about the uncontrolled spread of arms and ammunition in the Sahel region, emanating from the Libyan conflict. That is directly related to the increase in terrorism activities and transnational organized crime in the Sahel and West African regions, which present a threat to peace and security and undermine efforts made thus far towards achieving democracy, peace and stability. The global campaign against terrorism should also include a worldwide joint commitment to eradicating poverty and socio-economic underdevelopment. Countermeasures can never be sustainable if those factors are not addressed in relation to counter-terrorism initiatives.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains a useful and flexible collective platform for guiding the international community's response to terrorism. It provides a holistic and multifaceted response to the challenge that is premised on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Strategy recognizes that it is important to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism not only in their own right, but also as part of an effective anti-terrorism strategy. Furthermore, the strategy builds on the international consensus that terrorism cannot be ascribed to any particular religion or culture.

South Africa is convinced that international efforts to support counter-terrorism initiatives have a better chance of success if they also focus on regional cooperation and coordination. It is up to all countries and subregions to contextualize the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to make it meaningful for themselves as they address the diverse range of local actors required for its successful implementation. A one-size-fits-all approach would not work.

In that regard, we acknowledge the joint initiatives of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force designed to strengthen regional cooperation in the implementation of the Strategy, and their close cooperation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee. We also appreciate the technical assistance and cooperation that are offered to those countries and regional organizations that need to address challenges related to terrorism.

There should be greater interaction and cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council in order to ensure that actions taken by the different structures in countering terrorism are complementary, and not competitive or duplicative. South Africa has taken note of the review of the existing United Nations structures to combat terrorism and the recent announcement made by the Secretary-General regarding the appointment of a counter-terrorism coordinator. In creating such an office, it is important that the mandate and scope of the coordinator be clarified, as should be the relationship between the coordinator and existing United Nations structures dealing with terrorism, each of which has its own specific mandate. My delegation is of the view that the creation of any new office should be measured against its contribution to facilitating international efforts to combat terrorism rather than duplicating existing structures or placing additional burdens on Member States, especially those from the developing world.

Building on existing international solidarity and cooperation is the key to progress in addressing the scourge of terrorism. It is therefore important that we continue our efforts to finalize the comprehensive convention on international terrorism by reaching agreement on a definition of terrorism. We encourage delegations to participate in activities aimed at finalizing the draft convention, including discussions on submitting a draft resolution.

As stressed in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, respect for human rights is an essential element of our counter-terrorism efforts. It is not possible to claim the moral high ground while abusing basic human rights and compromising laws in the interests of political expediency. We cannot remain silent where rights are ignored and individuals are subjected to unlawful detention, torture and assassination. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism should be supported.

Security Council sanctions have to be capable of withstanding legal scrutiny, including on the question of due process. We therefore welcome efforts to create fair and transparent procedures to be used in listing and de-listing processes. Similarly, the Office of the Ombudsperson, with the support of the members of the Security Council, is playing a significant role in strengthening the legitimacy and credibility of the work of the sanctions committees.

In conclusion, we wish to emphasize that the United Nations counter-terrorism agenda should place a particular focus on the deep-seated socio-economic and political disparities that are the breeding ground for the spread of the terrorism in different parts of the world. We also want to express our support for the presidential statement to be adopted at the end of today's meeting.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, we thank you for having taken the initiative, through your Permanent Mission to the United Nations, of organizing today's meeting and for doing us the honour of presiding over it personally. We also express our gratitude for the concept note that you have prepared (S/2012/281, annex), which will no doubt guide today's debate. We also thank the Secretary-General for his presence and for the information that he has presented.

The Government of Guatemala categorically rejects all acts of terrorism and reiterates its commitment to preventing and combating the scourge. It is discouraging to find that terrorism in its different expressions and locations continues to spread and even to gain in intensity. The number of events and victims is on the rise, at least in some parts of the world, leaving a tragic trail of dead and wounded who are almost always innocent men, women and children. The methods used are becoming increasingly grotesque, and no one, not even United Nations personnel and representatives of humanitarian institutions, escapes the risk of experiencing a terrorist act.

Nor does the phenomenon recognize borders, which is why international cooperation is critical in addressing it. In that regard, we acknowledge the important progress achieved in the fight against terrorism, but evidence shows that we can and must do much more.

Consistent with our repudiation of terrorism, we have to date ratified 12 universal instruments currently in force and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. In addition, we have a law against the financing of terrorism, and we have established a presidential commission against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. We are currently in the process of incorporating into our national legislation those acts of terrorism listed in the universal conventions, and we have prepared a draft law against international terrorism, which is currently under consideration in the appropriate congressional committees.

We are well aware that all States, in all regions — be they large or small, strong or weak — are vulnerable to terrorism and its consequences. Any discussion of this important issue should therefore focus not just on the threat to one country in particular but on a concerted response by all countries.

Mr. President, in your concept note you have submitted for discussion various ways of strengthening international cooperation for the implementation of measures to combat terrorism. In that respect, we would like to make the following remarks.

First, we would like to see a stronger emphasis on measures to prevent terrorism. We believe that we should avoid focusing all of our attention on ex post facto measures, particularly sanctions. In that regard, we believe that conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism — its root causes — represent a key element of the preventive measures that should be considered on a priority basis.

Secondly, one of the many lessons learned over the past 15 years is that it is not possible to combat terrorism exclusively though military force. Although terrorism is a criminal and unjustifiable act, all measures to combat it must conform strictly to international law, in particular international norms for the protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. The legitimacy of the actions undertaken by the United Nations and its Member States is of crucial importance.

Thirdly, in making international cooperation a fundamental pillar of the global effort to eliminate terrorism, it is important to take two dimensions into account: cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, and cooperation within the United Nations system. With respect to the latter, this year the General Assembly will undertake the third review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. That exercise will also contribute to strengthening the capacity of the Security Council as a key actor within the system. Concerning the first aspect, we await with interest the consideration of additional measures aimed at strengthening the coordination, coherence, efficiency and transparency of the Organization, with a view to adequately responding to the needs and specific circumstances of States and to optimizing relations with regional and subregional organizations.

Fourthly, we believe that is necessary to adopt, as soon as possible, a general convention on terrorism, especially given the multidimensional character of this phenomenon. We believe that the value added of a general convention that would supplement existing instruments to combat international terrorism would include the following elements.

A general convention could contribute to preventing impunity for those who commit acts of terrorism, which is at this time one of the major threats to international peace and security. It would facilitate cooperation and mutual legal assistance among States so as to bring the perpetrators to justice. It would provide a definition of terrorism, allowing for the universal classification of such despicable acts. It would also bridge existing gaps in the work of the Security Council, in particular with respect to the 1373 (2001) Committee and the measures taken by the sanctions committees.

Fifthly, we express our solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their survivors. We welcome the trend towards the humanization of victims of terrorism.

Finally, my delegation fully supports the proposed presidential statement that will be adopted at the end of this meeting.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on Azerbaijan's assumption of the presidency of the Council and to thank you for having convened this debate on counter-terrorism. It is imperative that the Council remain actively seized of the matter.

As the Secretary-General emphasized in his statement, more than 10 years after the events of 11 September 2001, terrorism remains a grave threat to international peace and security, and we must continue to work relentlessly to combat it. This issue, which was one of our priorities during our 2011 presidency of the Group of Eight, is particularly important to France, which was recently affected by that scourge on its own territory.

The terrorist threat, which is more present than ever, has evolved; specifically, it is becoming more regional. Many local-level groups are affiliated with Al-Qaida or pursue their own objectives. Those amorphous groupings are having an impact on the security and socio-economic development of entire regions, in the Sahel — today in particular — Yemen, the Horn of Africa, Central Asia or South Asia.

The Sahel region is very much affected, as the events of the past few weeks have made clear, with the occupation of cities in northern Mali by terrorist groups and those who support them. We note that those groups, wherever they are to be found, take advantage of the historical weaknesses of the States targeted and exploit them in order to create sanctuaries, which can then be used as rear bases for operations aimed at neighbouring States.

We cannot stand by idly in the face of the threat of the expansion of regional hotbeds of violent radicalization. To meet that challenge, the international community must work together and give pride of place to the implementation of national, regional and international strategies. Such strategies must deal with the issue comprehensively. Thus the elimination of conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism requires the implementation not only of security policies but also of development and good-governance programmes. That can be done by, for example, putting in place regional strategies. That is the approach taken by the European Union, whose Sahel strategy has both a security track and a development track.

I believe that two components of counter-terrorism strategies are particularly important: capacity-building and the promotion of the rule of law, because they provide States under threat with a long-term approach. As we all know, when State authorities lack resources, that fact is often exploited by terrorists. Such States, threatened by the activities of terrorist groups on their territory, must have at their disposal the means necessary to dismantle networks and foil attacks. They must also begin to cooperate politically and operationally, especially at the regional level.

However, it is also vital that they have the means and the technical assistance necessary to allow them to prosecute, try and convict terrorists while complying with human rights. France participates in these global efforts, for instance by lending its support to the establishment of judicial counter-terrorism centres in Mauritania and Niger and offering training for judges.

France attaches great importance to counter-terrorism efforts at the United Nations, the role of which is irreplaceable and indispensable. The United Nations has allowed us to establish a sound international framework to combat terrorism. I am thinking in particular of the relevant resolutions of the Council, beginning with resolution 1373 (2001), the many relevant United Nations conventions and protocols and in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the creation of which we supported in 2006 when it was established by the General Assembly. This series of texts reflects the current international consensus on counter-terrorism.

Establishing norms is not enough, of course. We need to strengthen specific actions against terrorism. To that end, a number of projects and initiatives are being undertaken under United Nations auspices, such as the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the ground, the technical assistance programme of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the new United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. I welcome the quality of work done by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which analyses and assesses the situation of States, facilitates the establishment of technical assistance programmes, and works to strengthen regional cooperation by States in combating terrorism.

As we approach the biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to be held in the next few weeks, it is essential to continue working to improve the institutional architecture of the United Nations bodies tasked with fighting terrorism. On this point, we support the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. It is indeed vital to improve international coordination, particularly through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which offers the appropriate framework.

That improved coordination should be done on two levels. First, it should be undertaken within the United Nations in order to avoid duplicated initiatives and to allow for synergies. Secondly, however, there should also be coordination with outside institutions, such as the European Union or the Global Forum, and with other organizations that have counter-terrorism competencies, such as INTERPOL. That is how we will ensure both the coherence of international action and the clarity of the work of the United Nations in this area.

Mr. Cabral (Portugal): I thank you very much, Mr. President, for convening this timely meeting and for honouring us with your presence in chairing it. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his introductory statement.

International terrorism continues to pose enormous challenges to the international community, requiring increasingly coordinated efforts to ensure that it is effectively prevented and countered. The presidential statement that we are going to adopt rightly calls for enhanced coordination among all relevant actors, including improvements in the cooperative work done within the United Nations system, on the one hand, and among international, regional and subregional organizations, including civil society and the media, on the other. I would like to highlight some aspects in this context that, in our view, deserve particular attention.

First, I note the need to encourage and assist States in developing comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies. Those strategies must be devoted not only to law enforcement and reactive approaches, but also to addressing conditions conducive to radicalization and recruitment for terrorist purposes. The strategies therefore must include consistent preventive efforts and measures of a structural and cross-cutting nature. Moreover, where such preventive approaches are concerned, we attach great importance to the promotion of a universal culture of mutual understanding and tolerance among different cultures, religions and communities. In this regard, we would like to underline the influential role being played by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, with its national and regional strategies aimed at creating and nurturing a culture of inclusion and tolerance for diversity.

Secondly, we very much value the attention given to strengthening multilateral and bilateral technical assistance programmes, offered upon request to the States and regions that are most affected by terrorism. The dimensions and seriousness of the challenges posed to those States and regions by terrorism and terrorist acts require, in our view, more consistent provision of international assistance in the form deemed most appropriate and effective. To that end, by advancing regional solutions that are better tailored to realities on the ground and better designed to respond to similar challenges and to build on common strengths and capacities, regional approaches often seem to be the most effective framework.

Thirdly, we share the concerns expressed over the increasing connection, in some areas of the world, between terrorism groups and transnational organized crime networks, including those involved in illicit arms and drug trafficking, piracy and robbery at sea, money-laundering and the trafficking of human beings.

Last but not least, we would like to reiterate the particular importance of ensuring that counter-terrorism measures fully comply with obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law is also, in our view, a very effective tool for fighting radicalization and countering the narratives and appeals put forth by terrorist groups.

In this regard, and specifically referring to the sanctions regime pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) on terrorism, we are pleased to express our appreciation for the remarkable improvements brought by the Office of the Ombudsperson with regard to the fairness and clarity of procedures for de-listing. Once again, we take the opportunity to highlight the active role of the Ombudsperson, Judge Kimberley Prost, in achieving these goals in conformity with her mandate. In our view, the possibility of introducing this positive step in the framework of other United Nations sanctions regimes merits further active consideration.

More has to be done, and in a more effective manner, by the United Nations, including this Council, to enhance the preventive agenda of global efforts to counter terrorism. The United Nations retains wide range of structures, both at Headquarters and in the field, that in our view could be used in this area in a more coordinated and interactive way.

We welcome all the organizational and operational measures taken so far, but we encourage further adjustments that could strengthen the interaction of all the United Nations bodies engaged, directly or indirectly, in preventive counter-terrorism efforts. Among these measures, and as stated in several occasions in the past, we are of the view that United Nations political missions and political offices in the field, which are particularly well placed to assess the risks of terrorism and forms of violent extremism, should be given the mandates and resources necessary to allow them to advise and assist on appropriate preventive efforts. They should function as a link between the field and the relevant counter-terrorism structures at Headquarters, such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, among others. We stand ready to engage in further thinking on how to enhance the role and capacities of United Nations missions and offices in strengthening this preventive aspect of counter-terrorism.

As with many other international threats, prevention is key to our medium- and our long-term success in fighting terrorism.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security and to the enjoyment of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the social and economic development of all Member States. Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We consider that all terrorist acts constitute serious crimes and must be condemned and prosecuted. Terrorists must never be allowed to try to establish a pretext for their actions. All terrorist acts are unjustifiable regardless of their motivation.

Terrorism has a changing nature and character. In many instances, it is inseparably linked to aggressive separatism, extremism and organized crime. Areas affected by armed conflict — especially territories under foreign military occupation — create conditions conducive to networking between terrorists and those acting in such territories.

Azerbaijan has been affected by terrorism in several ways, including as the direct target of externally sponsored terrorist activity. The Republic of Armenia committed dozens of terrorist acts against the civilian population and infrastructure of Azerbaijan, as a result of which over 2,000 Azerbaijanis have lost their lives. Armenia orchestrated those acts with the direct involvement of its security agencies through international terrorist groups. During the active phase of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Armenia widely practiced the use of terrorist acts against the civilian population, in conjunction with military aggression, to achieve ethnic cleansing. Those acts of cruelty culminated in February 1992 in the annihilation of the population of the town of Khojaly, where 613 innocent people perished, including children, women and elderly people. More than 100 women and 63 children were killed. Armenia also targeted civilians far beyond the conflict zone, by masterminding terrorist acts against public transport and critical infrastructure, such as the bomb explosions in the Baku metro in 1994 and others.

Although today we have largely been able to neutralize the terrorist threat coming from Armenia, the risk of terrorism posed by that country remains high. We still encounter statements openly made endorsing certain terrorist acts as a legitimate military tactic, including the targeting of civilian infrastructure, especially Azerbaijan's water reservoir dams and oil pipeline networks. Such attacks will definitely result in hundreds of thousands of casualties among the civilian population. Elements of international terrorist organizations have been integrated into Armenia's security and defence sector. It is appalling to see a country that claims to share European and universal values venerating operatives of international terrorist organizations as heroes, and even erecting monuments to them.

The policy of the ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis has resulted in the occupation of 20 per cent of the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, creating more than 1 million refugees and internally displaced persons, who have been forced to leave their homes. The Security Council has adopted four resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories. Unfortunately, for almost 20 years those resolutions have been ignored by Armenia.

The occupied territories of Azerbaijan represent a source of grave concern in terms of the linkage among terrorism, separatism, extremism and organized crime, including drug trafficking, money laundering and the illicit supply of arms to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. In addition to the terrorist threat from Armenia, Azerbaijan continues to face the risk and threat posed by international terrorist groups. The proximity of our country to volatile regions makes the threat even more imminent for us. It is, therefore, no coincidence that Azerbaijan has been undertaking comprehensive national measures and actively contributing to international efforts to curb terrorism. Being a proponent of the indivisibility of security, Azerbaijan has been an active contributor to the international counter-terrorism coalition.

Although the international community has made remarkable achievements in countering terrorism, more should be done to prevent and combat the scourge. The absence of a clear definition of terrorism in international law hampers the efforts of the international community to bring to account not only individual terrorists and organizations but also States that promote, support or finance terrorist activities. In that regard, Azerbaijan stresses the importance of reaching agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to serve as an effective instrument to combat terrorism. Achieving agreement on a definition of terrorism and a convention on international terrorism could effectively address some outstanding issues, including the issue of getting States to refrain from organizing, financing, encouraging, providing training or otherwise directly or indirectly supporting terrorist activities.

Such an agreement should precede open and holistic discussions on the root causes of terrorism. We need to pay due attention to that issue within the ongoing international efforts, including through United Nations mechanisms, to address issues of social and economic development and education. Low levels of education, coupled with economic hardships, are factors that facilitate the work of terrorist propaganda, which is often promulgated through misinterpretations of religions.

The war on terrorism should not be used to target any particular religion or culture. Today, we are living at a time of heightened religious awareness, which in certain instances takes on exaggerated forms and sometimes is maliciously exploited to fuel conflicts on ethnic, religious or cultural grounds. In recent years, the unacceptable "Islamophobia" emerging in some countries confirms the vital necessity of joint efforts and dialogue to counter instances of defamation and misconceptions.

Azerbaijan does its best to contribute to the dialogue among civilizations. Our country hosts numerous events aimed at creating a better understanding among representatives of various religions. Azerbaijan is a multinational, multi-confessional country, where people of many nationalities and practitioners of all religions live together in peace and harmony. The multicultural dialogue we enjoy in our country can serve as an example of the peaceful coexistence of people of differing religious backgrounds. Azerbaijan is a country of tolerance, and we highly value our varied heritage and the multicultural legacy of our past. Today we are increasingly working to create a spirit of partnership and fraternity among our many nationalities and religions.

Economic development is one of the most important aspects of the fight against terrorism, promoting good governance and improving living conditions for populations. Over the last decade Azerbaijan has made great economic progress. Our country has been independent for only 20 years. But those years have been years of reform, transformation, development and progress. In less than 10 years our economy has tripled. Poverty has been reduced from nearly 50 per cent to 7 per cent. One million jobs have been created. Many social programmes are being implemented. The international financial institutions recognize what we are doing. Three major international organizations, Fitch Group, Moody's Corporation and Standard and Poor's, recently upgraded our credit rating. That is good sign of development, especially in the midst of the financial and economic crisis. Combating poverty, creating new jobs, developing solid legislation, strengthening the rule of law, battling corruption — all those help countries' development and consolidate efforts to combat terrorism.

We must all join our efforts to combat terrorism. The nature of terrorism today and its increasing connection with other threats to international peace and security require close international cooperation among

States, including through the establishment of a more coordinated, coherent and systematic United Nations approach. However, the existence of conflicts among States, foreign military occupation and aggressive separatism provide fertile ground for terrorism. The international community should, therefore, facilitate the resolution of conflicts on the basis of the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, particularly those relating to respect for territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of States, and help countries restore sovereignty over their own territories.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the States Members of the United Nations for their support of Azerbaijan's candidacy. Last October, for the first time in our short history, Azerbaijan was elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. This is a big responsibility, and we are ready to assume that responsibility. Azerbaijan will defend the ideals of justice, international law and peaceful cooperation between all countries.

We have done considerable work within our region in order to bring countries together. Our initiatives are aimed at the expansion of regional cooperation in the spirit of friendship, partnership and good neighbourliness. We definitely intend to contribute much during our presence in the Security Council, and I can assure our friends in the United Nations — all Member States — that Azerbaijan will be a reliable and friendly partner to all countries. We want to expand our cooperation and partnership, and we are very grateful for this support.

Our country has had a great history, culture and traditions, but as an independent State, it has had only 20 years of experience. These recent years have been years of transformation, development and presentation to the world. The very fact that 155 countries supported our candidacy showed that we managed to present ourselves in a positive way. That demonstrates that the international community trusts us, believes in us, and is willing to confer this responsibility on us.

I can assure the Council that Azerbaijan is ready for this responsibility. We will not let down those who have trusted us, and we will do everything in order to create a more predictable, safer world for all of us.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank Council members for their valuable contributions to the statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2012/17.

It is so decided.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12:25 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.6766

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6766th meeting

Monday, 7 May 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Mehdiyev	(Azerbaijan)
Members:	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Ms. Bolaños Pérez
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Special report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2012/280)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-33105 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Special report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2012/280)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Angola and Guinea-Bissau to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the participation at this meeting of the Minister of External Relations of Angola and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of Guinea-Bissau.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil, in her capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the Economic Community of West African States, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/280, which contains the special report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mutaboba.

Mr. Mutaboba: It is a privilege for me to introduce to the Council the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2012/280), dated 30 April 2012. The following are the main highlights of the situation on the ground and at the international level since the report was compiled following the 12 April 2012 coup d'état.

At the national level, the release of Interim President Raimundo Pereira and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior on 27 April met a key precondition of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) for participation in any talks. Notwithstanding, while the Secretary of State for Former Combatants, Brigadier General Fodé Cassamá, was also released on 28 April, it is important to note that several Government officials are still seeking refuge in diplomatic compounds in Bissau or are still in hiding. It is therefore critical to work towards improving current security conditions to ensure the safe return of those officials and facilitate the restoration of constitutional order in the country.

While the PAIGC is facing internal divisions, with 35 members suspended for questioning the credibility of the party's leader, Carlos Gomes Júnior, the party continues to call for the full restoration of constitutional order with the reinstatement of the constitutionally elected civilian authorities. The National Anti-Coup Front, led by the former security sector reform (SSR) adviser to late President Malam Bacai Sanhá and leader of the Solidarity and Labour Party, Iancuba Djola N'Djai, has condemned the coup and called for, first, the immediate restoration of constitutional order and the release of all detainees; second, the end of the persecution of Government leaders and looting of public property; third, the reinstatement of the PAIGC Government elected in the 2008 elections; fourth, the deployment of a United Nations-mandated stabilization force to provide security to State institutions and to facilitate the implementation of the SSR programme; fifthly, the fight against impunity and drug trafficking; sixth, the imposition of individual sanctions on the coup leaders and their prosecution; and seventh, the conclusion of the electoral process.

As negotiations towards finding a solution to the crisis continue, the needs of the population of Guinea-Bissau have been set aside. As a result of the political crisis, the payment of civil servants' salaries has been delayed in the absence of a Government, and the cashew trading season, which is crucial to the economy and livelihood of the population, has been disrupted. Food security assessments conducted by the World Food Programme to measure the impact of the current situation on the household food security in the regions of Oio, Quinara, Gabú, Bafatá and Cacheu have indicated that cashew nuts are being traded at a lower price — 150 to 200 CFA francs per kilogram — than the agreed price, which is 250 CFA francs per kilogram. In addition, barter trade has increased in the absence of cash flow. This is seriously affecting the revenue of the population relying on this main export product and their ability to earn a living or to survive.

In the face of the quickly evolving crisis, the United Nations on the ground has continued to mobilize efforts to ensure a swift and peaceful return to constitutional order. To this end, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) has met with the military junta on a number of occasions to underscore the need to return the country to constitutional rule, release detained officials and complete the electoral process.

Following the Security Council's issuance of its presidential statement of 21 April (S/PRST/2012/15), my office met with the leadership of the military junta to hand over a copy of the presidential statement and to enquire about what steps the junta planned to take to comply with the statement. The junta indicated that it was engaging in negotiations with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) aimed at arriving at a solution to the crisis. During the meeting, it agreed to grant access to the United Nations to visit the detainees, and that visit took place on 26 April 2012.

I also consulted with the PAIGC, opposition parties and civil society organizations to ascertain their various positions regarding the coup and to encourage their participation in the ECOWAS-led mediation process. Overall, the coup is unpopular in the country, especially within the population and in the former freedom fighters' association. There is mounting anxiety, particularly around the fact that the longer a solution to the crisis is delayed, the more severe the social and economic consequences. In addition, human rights violations, including restriction on freedom of expression and on peaceful assembly, intimidation and arbitrary arrest, continue unabated.

The UNIOGBIS Human Rights Section has met on a regular basis to analyse the impact of the coup d'état on the human rights situation in the country. The Section monitors the situation in detention centres and has called on the military authorities to respect the detainees' human rights. The United Nations Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group has also conducted an assessment of the humanitarian situation in the aftermath of the 12 April coup and reviewed the United Nations inter-agency contingency plan. The assessment concluded that the situation is not critical for the moment.

I also held a series of regular discussions with international partners based in Bissau to echo the Council's call for a common and coordinated voice and action in addressing the ongoing political crisis. In order to ensure the effective sharing of information, as well as mutual support among international partners and the harmonization of efforts, international partners in Bissau agreed to the creation of a crisis contact group, including ECOWAS, the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the United Nations and possibly the European Union (EU) as a major development partner, under the chairmanship of UNIOGBIS. The first formal meeting of the group will be convened on my return to Bissau.

At the regional level, ECOWAS has continued to lead the mediation process aimed at facilitating the peaceful restoration of constitutional order. In this regard, the Gambia, on behalf of the ECOWAS regional contact and follow-up group, convened a meeting of Guinea-Bissau stakeholders in Banjul on 29 April. The meeting was attended by representatives of Guinea-Bissau, including the military junta, the PAIGC, the forum of opposition political parties, the five candidates contesting the results of the first round of the presidential elections, as well as the inter-faith facilitation group that, prior to the coup, had attempted to mediate a solution for the completion of the electoral process.

During the meeting, the regional contact and follow-up group proposed the following solutions: first, taking immediate measures to restore constitutional order; second, putting in place a 12-month transitional period for the revision of the Constitution and the electoral law, the implementation of the national security sector reform programme, and other reforms to prepare the ground for new elections aimed at choosing a president during the transition; third, reinstalling Mr. Raimundo Pereira as the Interim President; fourth, appointing a consensual Prime Minister vested with full powers to lead a broad-based Government during the transition; fifth, granting the interior and defence portfolios to the military junta; sixth, extending the National Assembly's mandate until the end of the transition; and seventh, deploying an ECOWAS force to provide security for the departure of the Angolan mission in order to guarantee security during the transitional period and to assist in the implementation of SSR within the scope of the ECOWAS/CPLP road map in support of national SSR strategies.

Although the ECOWAS summit held in Abidjan on 26 April started on a positive footing, leading to the release of the Interim President and the Prime Minister, the talks in Banjul on 29 April stalled when parties disagreed on key issues, such as who should be the Interim President. In addition, the proposals put forward by the regional contact group included measures that could be challenged as not meeting the ECOWAS zero tolerance principle and the Security Council's call for the restoration of constitutional order. This is particularly true in the case of its decision that the military junta should take the defence and interior portfolios in the transitional Government.

There is also a lack of clarity on what the completion of the election process means in practical terms. The armed forces spokesperson has argued that the military junta was fully compliant with ECOWAS requirements and that the only point of difference was the question of the interim presidency. The PAIGC, on the other hand, insisted that a solution had to be based on a sole premise, namely, respect for constitutional and democratic legality. For the PAIGC, which did not participate in the negotiations on the ground, restoring constitutional normalcy means the unconditional release of all detainees, the return of power to the legitimate civilian authorities — that is, the Interim President, the Prime Minister and the Government — and the conclusion of the 18 March 2012 electoral process.

On 3 May, I attended an extraordinary summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government on Guinea-Bissau, in Dakar. In their final communiqué, ECOWAS leaders reaffirmed their zero tolerance principle for coups in the subregion and confirmed their previous decision to deploy a contingent of the ECOWAS Standby Force to Guinea-Bissau, though no timeline was given. The communiqué also established a 12-month transitional period in the country, during which the following measures would be taken with the assistance of ECOWAS: first, a review of Guinea-Bissau's legal texts, including the country's Constitution and electoral code; and secondly, reforms in the defence and security sectors and other reforms aimed at preparing the ground for the holding of fresh elections to choose a President by the end of the transition.

They also recommended that, first, the National Assembly renew its leadership through a vote, following which the elected Speaker of the National Assembly should assume the responsibility of Interim President and the elected Deputy Speaker become the Speaker of the National Assembly; secondly, a consensual Prime Minister with full powers be designated to lead a broad-based Government that should lead the transition to its conclusion; thirdly, the Interim President and the transitional Prime Minister not be eligible to contest the envisaged presidential election; and the tenure of the membership of the National Assembly be extended through appropriate mechanisms to cover the transitional period. In addition, ECOWAS leaders directed the ECOWAS Commission to seek the assistance of the African Union, the United Nations and the international community in implementing these measures. They also decided to maintain the sanctions imposed on the military junta until such time that all the protagonists accept the modalities for a return to constitutional order.

Meanwhile, the EU has imposed targeted sanctions on six members of the military junta, including travel bans and the freezing of assets. For its part, the CPLP issued a resolution on 5 May demanding, inter alia, the reinstatement of the Interim President and the Prime Minister, and the conclusion of the electoral process that was disrupted by the 12 April coup d'état. It also called on the Security Council to impose targeted sanctions on the military and civilians involved in the coup, and reiterated its support for the establishment of a United Nations-mandated stabilization force in Guinea-Bissau comprising troops from ECOWAS, the CPLP and the African Union.

The main parties to the mediation process led by ECOWAS are the military junta and political parties, including the PAIGC, which formed the constitutionally elected Government prior to the 12 April coup. The PAIGC argues that all parties should not be on the same footing in the negotiations and that account needs to be taken of the results of the 2008 legislative elections.

In a document entitled "Memorandum on the Management of the Politico-Military Crisis in Guinea-Bissau advocated by ECOWAS", which was issued on 2 May, the Permanent Commission of the PAIGC Political Bureau expressed some reservations about the ECOWAS decisions. In particular, the PAIGC stressed the importance of maintaining the policy of zero tolerance regarding the 12 April coup d'état, and expressed its determination not to participate in a transitional organ that would explicitly or implicitly legitimate the coup or give credence to the coup leaders. The PAIGC also pointed out the ECOWAS decisions that were viewed as unconstitutional, including the appointment of members of the military junta as Ministers of Interior and Defence, whereas Guinea-Bissau's Constitution states that the armed forces and its active members cannot undertake any political activity.

In another memorandum issued on 5 May, the Political Bureau reiterated its earlier messages and rejected the ECOWAS proposal to extend the mandate of the National Assembly beyond November 2012. The Political Bureau stressed that it would instruct its parliamentary group not to take part in any process that would not respect the approved rules for the functioning of Parliament.

Allow me to conclude by making the following key points.

First, I would like to reaffirm the United Nations strong condemnation of the unconstitutional seizure of power by the armed forces in Guinea-Bissau. I also underscore the importance of United Nations support for the ECOWAS-led mediation process, which should aim at ensuring the restoration of constitutional rule in the country in compliance with Guinea-Bissau's Constitution.

Secondly, in the light of the divisions in Guinea-Bissau, including within and between the political and military groupings in the country, any sustainable solution to the current political crisis must be one that is inclusive of all national stakeholders. In that connection, I will continue to work with national actors to foster inclusive dialogue among segments of Guinea-Bissau's society, aimed at arriving at a consensual solution to the current crisis.

Thirdly, the continued delay in the return to normalcy in Guinea-Bissau is negatively impacting on the innocent citizens of the country who want to see a speedy resolution of the crisis. In that regard, the Council may wish to consider the imposition of targeted measures against those who continue to impede the return to constitutional order in the country.

Finally, the international community cannot afford to be divided in its engagement in Guinea-Bissau. In that regard, it is essential that all international partners — in particular the African Union, the CPLP, ECOWAS, the European Union and the United Nations — agree on a joint international response to facilitate the peaceful restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau. I would like to assure the Council that I will continue to engage with international stakeholders with a view to achieving that objective.

The President: I thank Mr. Mutaboba for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mamadú Saliu Djaló Pires, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Pires (Guinea-Bissau) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text provided by the delegation*): Allow me to congratulate you and your country, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of Security Council for the month of May.

I would like to thank all the members of the Council for once again giving me an opportunity, within a three-week period, to participate in the Council on behalf of legitimate Government of Guinea-Bissau.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Minister of External Relations of Angola on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the representative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Chair of Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Guinea Bissau.

In the light of the most recent developments in the current political and military situation — namely, the conclusions from the regional ministerial contact group meeting held in Banjul on 29 April and the final communiqué of the extraordinary meeting of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government Summit that took place in Dakar on 3 May — the legitimate authorities of Guinea-Bissau take this opportunity to once again acknowledge and thank ECOWAS for its efforts to find a just solution to the crisis caused by the military coup of 12 April.

We are pleased with the solid positions taken by the Security Council, the African Union, ECOWAS, the CPLP, the European Union and the International Organization of la Francophonie, which vehemently condemned the military coup and considered the application of sanctions against its organizers. We are also overjoyed by the freeing of President Raimundo Pereira, Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior and other politicians who had been held under military custody. However, we would like to alert the international community, and the Security Council in particular, that atrocities continue to be committed by the organizers of the coup d'état and their supporters, both in the capital and in the interior of the country.

For example, many members of the Government, party leaders, regional governors, individuals linked to the interim President and the Prime Minister, representatives of the judiciary, including its President, the President of the National Electoral Commission and some of the primary collaborators are still in hiding since the coup on 12 April, many of them in diplomatic representations in Bissau.

Peaceful rallies continue to be forbidden by the military, and are violently dispersed when they are organized.

Assaults and theft of cattle continue to occur in Bissau and in the countryside, with no one to protect the civilian victims from organized criminal groups.

The funds of many public institutions are being pillaged by military elements, without a minimal observance of legal and administrative procedures.

The largest party in the Bissau-Guinean Parliament has been practically leaderless since 12 April, with its leadership in hiding due to persecution and threats from the illegitimate military power.

The home of the Prime Minister and candidate for the second round of presidential elections, which was bombed and destroyed by the military, continues to be pillaged in spite of supposedly being guarded by the military.

The legitimate authorities of Guinea-Bissau are concerned about the mechanism adopted by ECOWAS to implement the zero-tolerance principle vis-à-vis coups d'état, as detailed in the final communiqué of the 3 May extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government. In truth, the recommended solution of ECOWAS could be, in practice, an ineffective modality to resolve the current political and military crisis, possibly leading to the aggravation and postponement of the problems the country is facing. Objectively, it also legitimizes the coup d'état by not endorsing the continuation of the electoral process for the second round of voting, nor the return of the legitimate authorities who are supposed to serve until 11 April.

Indeed, the endorsement of the election of a new bureau for the National Popular Assembly and the recommendation to organize a transitional Government with the political parties reinforces that view. Therefore, in our view, the solution recommended by ECOWAS seems to encourage coups d'état in Africa, in particular in Guinea-Bissau, instead of combating them.

In that context, the legitimate authorities of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau are of the view that the mechanism adopted by ECOWAS to implement its zero-tolerance principle against coups d'état, by distancing the country's democratically elected Interim President and the Prime Minister, does not observe the principle of the return to constitutional order demanded by the international community, namely, by the Council through its presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/15) and by the main political and civilian actors in Guinea-Bissau. The ECOWAS position on this is also a long way from those held by other segments of the international community, in particular the African Union, the European Union, the IOF and the United Nations.

For those reasons, the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau reiterates to the Council its determination to fulfil the requests contained in the Council's presidential statement of 21 April and reaffirmed by the international community, considering the following as necessary conditions, sine qua non, for an immediate restoration of constitutional order and democratic legitimacy, in accordance with Guinea-Bissau's constitutional framework.

Those are, first, the restitution of effective power to the democratically elected leaders who were serving the people up until 11 April, namely, the Interim President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Secondly, a multinational force should be dispatched, based on the willing cooperation and involvement of various international organizations, including ECOWAS, the African Union, the CPLP and the United Nations. Such a force should be mandated to ensure the protection of the Government's leaders and institutions and the civil authorities, as well as the holding of the second round of presidential and legislative elections by the end of this year.

Thirdly, the electoral process should be continued through the holding of the second round of presidential elections interrupted by the military coup of 12 April.

Fourthly, the current military leadership must be immediately removed from their posts in the Guinean armed forces for their role in initiating all the military uprisings in Guinea-Bissau during the past 14 years.

Fifthly, the armed forces should be reformed as outlined in the proposed security sector reform, to which the international force should actively contribute by helping to create the necessary conditions for its implementation and for the establishment of a democratic, republican military.

Sixthly, sanctions should be imposed on the coup leaders and their associates. Finally, criminal charges should be brought against the leaders and their associates for the grave economic and social effects of the coup resulting from the acts of vandalism and the pillaging of businesses and private residences perpetrated during the disruption of constitutional order. Our position is supported by the majority of public opinion in the country, including the PAIGC and its members of Parliament and all the parties that make up the national anti-coup movement, the Guinea-Bissau Human Rights League and the trade unions.

The President: I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Georges Rebelo Chikoti, Minister of External Relations of Angola, speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Mr. Chikoti (Angola) (*spoke in Portuguese; English text provided by the delegation*): I am addressing the Council on behalf of the States members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP): Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste and my own country, Angola, which is currently president of the Community.

In response to the coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau, the international community has in recent weeks proposed initiatives seeking a solution that will safeguard the dignity of the Guinean people and restore their legitimate right to a normal life and to peace, justice, freedom and development. In that regard, two weeks ago I had the honour to take part in a meeting of the Security Council (S/PV.6755) convened by the President for that month, the United States of America, in which we had the opportunity to discuss Guinea-Bissau. Today, we are again taking measures to find an acceptable solution that satisfies the international community.

The CPLP and its member States remain deeply concerned over developments in the country. We have adopted two resolutions on Guinea-Bissau, most recently on 5 May, reaffirming that the only authorities in Guinea-Bissau recognized by the CPLP are those that derive their authority from constitutional and democratic legitimacy, and giving full support to the view expressed by the legitimate Government of Guinea-Bissau following the conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held in Dakar on 3 May.

Despite the international community's firm condemnation of the coup d'état and its demands for the restoration of the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau, there have been no results so far that can ensure the restoration of constitutional normality. We welcome the release of the Government officials jailed after the military coup, including Interim President Raimundo Pereira and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior, and we call for the release of the remaining detainees following the coup. We believe that the Guinean people cannot consider themselves free so long as they do not enjoy all their political and civilian rights, both within and outside Guinea-Bissau.

The CPLP welcomes the position taken by the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and the International Organization of la Francophonie, which strongly condemns the coup d'état, and calls on the Security Council to make every effort to immediately restore the constitutional order, to reinstate the legitimate Government of Guinea-Bissau and to conclude the electoral process. The

CPLP also appeals to the Security Council to impose targeted sanctions on the military personnel and civilians involved in the coup d'état, and expresses its support for the sanctions recently adopted by the European Union and those also planned by ECOWAS.

At this time, the most important task of the international community, under the leadership of the Security Council, is to implement appropriate mechanisms for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau. In that regard, we reiterate our support for the request of the legitimate Government of Guinea-Bissau for the establishment and deployment of a comprehensive stabilization force, comprising staff of member countries of ECOWAS, the CPLP and the African Union, under a Security Council mandate.

The Council should therefore urgently deliberate such a proposal, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and establish a mission mandate that will safeguard the constitutional order, protect the country's institutions, legal authorities and people, ensure the completion of the electoral process and the implementation of the defence and security sector reform, and, last but not least, effectively combat drug trafficking and its related impunity.

The CPLP and its member States are ready to make a genuine contribution to that initiative, as it is the best option among the ongoing efforts to resolve the crisis and — as the most comprehensive and multilateral solution to be received by the political and social forces and people of Guinea-Bissau — offers the best guarantee of success.

Following the establishment of the Angolan technical and military assistance mission, which was fully committed to achieving a bilateral solution to the necessary defence and security sector reform, and after it was deemed impossible to implement the tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Government of Guinea-Bissau, ECOWAS and the CPLP, as provided for in the road map for reform, we believe that it is time for a multilateral approach to support the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau, under the auspices of the Security Council. That seems to be the way to help that country.

We propose the urgent establishment of a crisis contact group for Guinea-Bissau, coordinated by the United Nations, as mentioned in the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2012/280), with the participation of representatives of the African Union, ECOWAS and the CPLP.

In conclusion, allow me to draw the Council's attention to the terrible scourge of illicit drugs and arms trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, as well as other less prevalent but equally serious trafficking. We believe that the expressed intention of the country's legitimate Government to combat drug trafficking was a key reason for the coup d'état. The international community is therefore being challenged to mobilize in that fight, which is of concern to everyone as it affects us all, causing irreparable damage to and destroying the country's political cohesion and social and moral well-being, and making it important to strengthen support for the ECOWAS plan to fight drug trafficking, in particular in West Africa.

Finally, allow me to alert the Council and the international community to the serious humanitarian situation emerging in Guinea-Bissau, in particular those of internally displaced persons and refugees and the risk of an epidemic, which require a response and appropriate action of the international community. We cannot delay such a response to Guinea-Bissau's needs.

I am grateful for attention of the Council and the invitation to the CPLP to address it.

The President: I now give the floor to Ambassador Viotti.

Mrs. Ribeiro Viotti: I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this timely meeting and for inviting me to brief the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. I welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of Guinea-Bissau, His Excellency Mr. Mamadú Saliu Djaló Pires, and of the Minister of External Relations of Angola and Chair of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), His Excellency Mr. Georges Chikoti. I also welcome Ms. Salamatu Souleiman, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, for his briefing and for his valuable work as Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

From the outset, the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission has strongly condemned the forcible seizure of power from the legitimate Government of Guinea-Bissau. It is worth noting that the international community also condemned the coup d'état in unison. The message was clear — the constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau must be restored and all those who are illegally detained must be released as a matter of urgency. We believe that the unity of all international partners of Guinea-Bissau behind such a strong message will contribute to the resumption of the democratic process and to convincing the perpetrators of the coup d'état to withdraw to the barracks, allowing for the return of civilian rule.

By condemning the coup d'état, we also made it clear that all national stakeholders should resolve their disputes through political dialogue, never by the use of force. The first step to further national reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau should be respect for the rule of law and the restoration of the constitutional order. The active engagement and coordination of the various international partners, especially regional organizations, should be sustained. The recent release of the Interim President and the Prime Minister is an important development, and should be seen as an opportunity to maintain the momentum and lead to the restoration of the rule of law.

At this juncture, it is of the utmost importance that we continue to coordinate our efforts and speak with a single voice, underscoring that the international community will not, under any circumstances, tolerate the unconstitutional seizure of power. The United Nations, the African Union, the CPLP and ECOWAS should continue to cooperate and mutually reinforce each other's efforts. We commend the notable role of regional organizations in discussing solutions to the crisis and in underlining that the overthrow of a democratic Government shall not be accepted by those committed to peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau. Now it is time to seek convergence and align our actions with the purpose of rendering them as effective as possible.

The Peacebuilding Commission is committed to helping Guinea-Bissau to implement the necessary reforms to achieve political stability and further its social and economic development. As I had the opportunity to stress in my previous statements before the Council, tangible results were obtained in the fields of institution-building, economic recovery and financial management. Let me also reiterate that the country was in the process of conducting democratic elections and that the first round had a significant turnout and was considered credible and transparent by international observers. The coup d'état represented a serious blow to the democratic will of the people of Guinea-Bissau.

I refer once and again to those gains to emphasize that the engagement of the United Nations and of the Peacebuilding Commission with Guinea-Bissau was paying off. Despite all of the difficulties of a country affected by years of conflict, Guinea-Bissau had started, with the cooperation of the international community, to create a positive trend that would establish a virtuous cycle of political stability and economic development.

I therefore echo the call made by Special Representative Mutaboba that all international partners — the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the CPLP and the European Union — must stand united in their efforts to assist Guinea-Bissau at today's critical juncture. To maintain the firm engagement of the international community with Guinea-Bissau, it is crucial that the constitutional order be restored. I reaffirm that the Guinea-Bissau country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission is ready to continue to engage in those efforts.

The President: I thank Ambassador Viotti for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Suleiman.

Ms. Suleiman: I would like, first of all, to convey to you, Mr. President, warm greetings from the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, Mr. Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, whom I am honoured to represent at today's important meeting of the Security Council.

The several meetings convened by the Council in recent weeks to deliberate on the situation in Guinea-Bissau bear witness to the importance that the Council and the Secretary-General attach to the issues of peace and security in West Africa. I wish therefore to express the gratitude of the heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States and the ECOWAS Commission for the support that the Council and the Secretary-General have given to the subregion in its efforts to stabilize the peace and security environment.

As I thank you, Sir, for your excellent stewardship of today's proceedings, I would also like to acknowledge the speakers who took the floor before me, in particular, Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, as well as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, the Minister of External Affairs of Angola, who spoke on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), and the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

For years now, Guinea-Bissau has stood as a major challenge in the ECOWAS space. The permanent stand-off between the over-politicized military and the perpetually bickering political class runs the risk of transforming a beautiful country with great potential into a virtual failed State. That trend cannot be allowed to continue.

Since 19 April, the last time it briefed the Security Council (see S/PV.6754), ECOWAS has intensified its efforts aimed at pushing for the speedy restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, but with mixed results. At yet another Extraordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in Abidjan on 26 April, which previous speakers have referred to, the Summit denounced the agreement between the military command and the 26 fringe parties to establish a so-called national transitional council to rule the country for two years. Instead, the ECOWAS Summit demanded the establishment of a 12-month transition in Guinea-Bissau that would culminate in the holding of a presidential election. The Summit also instructed the Commission to deploy the ECOWAS Standby Force in the country to, among other duties, secure the withdrawal of the Angolan Technical and Military Assistance Mission in Guinea-Bissau, secure the proposed transition and commence work on the implementation of the road map for defence and security sector reform in the country.

The heads of State adopted a series of targeted sanctions on the military command and its associates, along with diplomatic, economic and financial sanctions on the country, if the junta failed to accept ECOWAS demands within 72 hours. A regional contact group, with Nigeria as Chair and comprising Benin, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Senegal and Togo, was also established to follow up on the Summit's decisions.

In a major breakthrough in the crisis, ECOWAS succeeded, on 27 April, in securing the release of both the Interim President, Mr. Raimundo Pereira, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Carlos Gomes Júnior, who had been in detention since the 12 April coup d'état. On 29 April, as was mentioned earlier, the regional contact group held extensive consultations in Banjul with the principal stakeholders in the crisis — lasting more than 12 hours — on the modalities for the transition. The interlocutors included the military command, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the group of five presidential candidates in the aborted election, the group of 26 fringe parties allied with the junta and interfaith groups for the promotion of dialogue. However, the consultations failed to yield the desired results, principally because of the intransigence of the junta and its political allies. Therefore, targeted and general sanctions came into effect at midnight on 29 April.

The ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit held in Dakar on 3 May further consolidated the regional position on the crisis in Guinea-Bissau. The Summit provided further details on the proposed 12-month transition, the highlight of which was the proposal to reconvene the National Assembly, elect a new leadership through a vote and make the Speaker so elected the new Interim President. A consensual Prime Minister with full powers would then be appointed to head a transitional Government. The tasks of the transitional authority would include, inter alia, overseeing a review of the relevant legal texts, namely, the Constitution and the electoral code, economic reform, reform of the defence and security sector, a national dialogue and the conduct of a presidential election.

On Friday, 4 May, the Chairman of the Authority dispatched an ECOWAS mission to Guinea-Bissau, led by Nigeria, the Chair of the regional contact group, for yet another round of discussions with the stakeholders. At those discussions, the junta, the PAIGC, the five presidential candidates, members of civil society, interfaith groups and the political parties were present. In the consultations, the proposals put forward by ECOWAS were met by the stakeholders with broad acceptance, even though some of the interlocutors called for a joint technical team to review and harmonize the proposals with the provisions of the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau. ECOWAS believes that progress is being made and that a solution will soon be found in that direction.

In adopting the strategy for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, ECOWAS was informed by its awareness of the seriousness and complexity of the situation in the country. Against that background, sacrifices and compromises must necessarily be made by all stakeholders. The constitutional order that existed prior to the coup d'état cannot be restored immediately, as the PAIGC is demanding, if civil war is to be avoided in the country. Nor will ECOWAS or any international authority accept the proposals of the junta and its allies seeking a two-year transition period, because that would be tantamount to rewarding the coup plotters. A compromise is therefore needed. In proposing a transition through the National Assembly, ECOWAS is aware that the overthrown Government of the PAIGC controls 63 per cent of the seats in the Assembly and would have a major say in determining who eventually emerges as Interim President.

Even as ECOWAS is working hard to find a peaceful solution to the constitutional crisis, the planning element of the ECOWAS Standby Force has maintained regular contact with the Bissau-Guinean army on the modalities for the deployment of the ECOWAS Force, which is imminent. In those endeavours, ECOWAS has worked, and will continue to work, in close cooperation with the African Union, the United Nations and other partners, whose support will greatly enhance the achievement of the set objectives of the re-establishment of the rule of law and the maintenance of peace and security in Guinea-Bissau.

ECOWAS is acutely aware that the implementation of the decisions of the subregion's heads of State and Government will require resolve as well as the continued understanding and support of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Security Council and the international community at large. ECOWAS will definitely need financial, technical and logistical support, particularly for the deployment of the Standby Force. Work on the details of the support required is at an advanced stage and will be made available to all partners as soon as possible.

The initiatives taken by ECOWAS are aimed at helping the Government and the people of Guinea-Bissau, because ECOWAS, as a regional body, is aware of the country's problems and hopes, through dialogue, to undertake a thorough review of the country's political and military system, with a view to transforming the country into a responsible member of the international community and an agent for international peace and security, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

The political paralysis and the drug culture, to which earlier speakers have referred, in Guinea-Bissau today symbolize the fragility that threatens the subregion's efforts to entrench democratic culture and promote growth and development; it also threatens international peace and security. The international community has a responsibility and an opportunity to transform that situation, and the time to do so is now.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

United Nations

S/PV.6767

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6767th meeting

Thursday, 10 May 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Mehdiyev	(Azerbaijan)
Members:	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Kandangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Armenia, Australia, Austria, Israel, Japan, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At the outset, Ambassador Peter Wittig will make a joint statement on behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). Ambassador Wittig will then brief the Council in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, to be followed by briefings by the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Wittig.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Mr. President, as you said, I have the pleasure of making various statements today — three, as a matter of fact. First, I will speak on behalf of the three subsidiary bodies. Then, immediately afterward, I will speak on behalf of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. Finally, later in the debate, I will make a statement in my national capacity.

On behalf of the Chairs of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), I have the honour to update the Security Council on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups, as requested by the Council in its resolutions 1989 (2011), 1963 (2010) and 1977 (2011), and earlier resolutions.

For the sake of brevity, I will focus my remarks on the most relevant strategic aspects. A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed today in hard copy and made available on the website of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011).

Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. It remains important to maintain close cooperation and effective coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) as well as between their respective groups of experts. The three Committees continue to attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the group of experts assisting the 1540 Committee.

The Committees welcome the continuing efforts of the expert groups to cooperate on outreach activities and country visits within their respective mandates, enhance cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, increase exchange of information, participate in joint meetings and maintain reciprocal representation as appropriate. I am pleased to report that cooperation among the expert groups has increased in some areas. The details are outlined in the hard copy of this statement to be distributed.

At the same time, the Committees see room for further improvement regarding cooperation and cost-effectiveness. The expert groups should further enhance their cooperation in line with their respective mandates, in particular with regard to their outreach activities.

The Committees note with concern that terrorist groups continue to seek to exploit gaps in the capacity of Member States to fully implement counter-terrorism measures. The Committees' groups of experts can play a pertinent role in advising States that seek assistance in building counter-terrorism capacity.

The Committees welcome all efforts aimed at enhancing the visibility of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and ensuring greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities with a view to promoting transparency and avoiding duplication. The Committees take note of the recommendation of the Secretary-General for Member States to consider appointing a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, and, in that regard, look forward to the discussions on that initiative in connection with their deliberations on further improving cross-institutional coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Let me now come to my second statement in my capacity as Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. In today's briefing, as Chair of that Committee, I would like to provide an update on the activities and achievements of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities since my last briefing in November 2011 (see S/PV.6658). In my remarks I shall focus on what the Committee considers to be the most important elements: first, the evolving nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida; secondly, enhancing implementation of the sanctions measures; and thirdly, fair and clear procedures. A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed in a hard copy today and made available on the Committee's website.

My first point concerns the nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida. Al-Qaida and its associates continue to pose a threat to international peace and security, and this threat continues to evolve. As such, it is important for Member States to continue making every effort to fully implement the measures outlined in resolution 1989 (2011).

At the same time, the Committee remains committed to ensuring that the Al-Qaida sanctions list is dynamic and responsive to the changing nature of the threat. The Committee's decisions related to listing and de-listing are based on requests by Member States. In this context, the Committee recalls that it remains the responsibility of all Member States to ensure that the list of targeted individuals and entities accurately reflects the evolving threat posed by Al-Qaida through the submission of listing and de-listing requests in a timely manner.

My second point relates to implementation. The Committee recalls that counter-terrorism measures adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter are binding on all Member States. The Committee notes with concern that Al-Qaida and associated terrorist groups seek to exploit gaps in the capacity of Member States to fully implement counter-terrorist measures as requested by the Security Council. The Committee continues to explore new ways to collaborate with Member States to support implementation efforts.

The Committee realizes that the prompt, effective implementation of sanctions measures is best achieved when the sanctions list is accurate, up to date and user-friendly. First, a new format for the list, designed to facilitate harmonization across all Security Council sanctions regimes, has been approved by the Committee. Secondly, the Committee is conducting reviews outlined in resolution 1989 (2011) in a streamlined fashion, in particular regarding reportedly deceased individuals and defunct entities or entries that lack sufficient identifiers.

The Committee relies on the cooperation of Member States for the successful conduct of these reviews. The Committee will continue to make every effort to devise review modalities that will allow for an effective and credible review process without overburdening Member States. The Committee has held preliminary discussions on the recommendations submitted by the Monitoring Team in its twelfth report. The Committee will transmit the Monitoring Team's report to the Security Council once it has concluded its considerations, and will provide the Council with the Committee's position on the recommendations. The Monitoring Team continues to support the work of the Committee, including through outreach activities and by engaging with individual States and participating in conferences. In doing so, the Team promotes the work of the Committee to a wider audience and encourages implementation.

My third point concerns fair and clear procedures. The Security Council's decision to establish and enhance the Office of the Ombudsperson continues to be a milestone in the field of targeted sanctions. The Ombudsperson is mandated to assist the Committee in safeguarding the rights of listed individuals in a fair, independent and effective process. The Committee has successfully established a transparent practice for processing recommendations on de-listing petitions submitted through the Ombudsperson's Office. In 15 cases that were submitted through the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Committee has completed its consideration, resulting in 13 individuals and 23 entities being removed from the list. Currently, four comprehensive reports of the Ombudsperson are under consideration by the Committee. For further details, I advise members to consult the website of the Ombudsperson.

In resolution 1989 (2011), the Security Council has set out clear guidance for this process, including the timelines for the Ombudsperson and the Committee. The Committee remains committed to observing these, since they are considered to be a fundamental element of fairness. For the same reason, the Committee attaches great importance to providing a rationale for its decisions. In conclusion, the Ombudsperson process is producing tangible results by further enhancing fair and clear procedures.

As Chair and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all Member States for their continued willingness to cooperate constructively with the Committee, its Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson. The Committee has brought many improvements to fruition in recent years, and remains committed to building upon these advancements.

The President: I thank Ambassador Wittig for his joint statement and briefing.

I give the floor to Ambassador Puri, Chairman of the security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and in his national capacity.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I have had the honour to chair the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) since the beginning of 2011. It gives me great pleasure to brief the Security Council on the work of the Committee since the previous briefing, held in November last year (see S/PV.6658).

The Committee continues to be guided in its work by the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

I would like to highlight here the publication in January of the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) by Member States, prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) pursuant to the provisions of resolution 1963 (2010). As members will recall, resolution 1624 (2005) addresses the critical but complex issues of prohibiting incitement to commit acts of terrorism and countering incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance, including through the promotion of dialogue and understanding among civilizations.

The survey considers the status of implementation of the resolution by geographical region and by theme, identifies gaps in implementation, and suggests new, practical approaches to achieving the goals set forth in the resolution. In particular, the survey highlights the human rights challenges involved in seeking to prevent genuine incitement while not infringing upon the fundamental rights to freedom of expression and freedom of belief. The survey notes the need to pay more attention, within a human rights framework, to Internet and other social-media content that is considered to be incitement. It also highlights the importance of giving victims of terrorism, and civil society more generally, a role in efforts to counter incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance.

The elements of this year's programme of work include organizing another special meeting, open to the wider membership, that will focus on the key aspects of the Committee's implementation of its mandate. The special meeting will provide a further opportunity for Counter-Terrorism Committee members and the rest of the United Nations membership to discuss counter-terrorism issues of priority concern. The Committee has not yet agreed on the agenda or timing for the special meeting.

The Committee is also scheduled to conduct an interim review of CTED by 30 June, in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010). The Committee will also explore the possibility of collaborating with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, identifying available practices, elements and good standards that could help Member States to develop their respective comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010), and will focus on further improving the format of the global surveys on the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The Committee is also in the process of reviewing the format of the preliminary implementation assessment in order to enhance its usefulness as a diagnostic tool. In that regard, all United Nations Member States have their own preliminary implementation assessments, and the stocktaking of their country counter-terrorism profiles is being carried out by CTED.

The Committee continues to focus on region-specific discussions and on issues identified in the

2011 global survey. The Committee also continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic issues. Some of the major issues considered by the Committee during the past six months include countering incitement to terrorism by preventing the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions; terrorism prevention and countering incitement to terrorism through the Internet; and preventing the abuse of non-profit organizations for terrorism-financing purposes. The Committee also held a discussion on developments in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in West Africa.

As part of its efforts to enhance its interaction with international and regional organizations and United Nations entities, the Committee has also heard briefings on counter-terrorism by Mr. Alexey Kuzyura, Chairperson of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law Enforcement Organizations on counter-terrorism; by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Counter-Terrorism Task Force; and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

CTED has also been active in conducting a number of workshops on specific topics aimed at a specific regional audience. Important workshops organized during this period include the subregional workshop for South and South-East Asian States on controlling the physical cross-border transportation of cash and bearer-negotiable instruments, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2011; the first of a series of around six regional workshops and consultations on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), held for East African States in Nairobi in late November 2011; the third regional workshop on protecting the non-profit sector from abuse by terrorist financers, held in Nairobi for countries of East Africa in late February; and the fifth regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors of South Asia, held in March in New Delhi.

Major forthcoming events include a regional workshop on controlling the cross-border movement of bearer-negotiable instruments, scheduled for 14 to 19 May in Tonga; the third seminar for counter-terrorism practitioners, scheduled for June in Algiers; the regional workshop on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), scheduled for July in Morocco; and the sixth regional workshop for police officers, prosecutors and judges in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism, scheduled for later this year in Islamabad.

In addition, the Committee and CTED continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity-building at the national and subregional levels. Furthermore, the Committee and CTED will continue to pay close attention to the question of respect for human rights and the rule of law in the counter-terrorism measures taken by States, in accordance with the relevant mandates conferred by the Security Council.

During the reporting period, the Committee and CTED organized a briefing for the wider membership on recent developments in their work. Member States were also invited to a regional presentation on developments in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in West Africa, held on the same occasion. The Committee and CTED continue to work closely with the relevant working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum in order to support, coordinate and complement one another's counter-terrorism endeavours. I attach high priority to enhancing transparency and public outreach and to strengthening cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations in the work of the Committee.

In conclusion, the Committee will continue to play a critical role in the global fight against terrorism and strive to do so in a more strategic and transparent manner so that it can more effectively contribute to the global counter-terrorism effort within the scope of its mandate. I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of CTED, and to his team for their excellent work on the Committee's behalf, and to thank the Secretariat for its continued support.

I would now like to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

The Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) should continue to further strengthen their ongoing efforts in the fight against terrorism. India fully supports all efforts that strengthen international and regional cooperation and, most importantly, help ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including

1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and a comprehensive and integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The outcome document adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee at its special meeting, held on 28 September 2011, is a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening the capacity of States in their counter-terrorism efforts. It raises the benchmark in the fight against terrorism to a higher level. It urges all Member States to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism and to take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant international instruments. We urge all United Nations Member States to strive to implement that approach in their counter-terrorism efforts.

Since the splitting of the 1267 sanctions regime in June 2011, it has been a challenging period for the 1267 Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) in adjusting to the revised mandates. The Monitoring Team needs to put greater focus on comprehensively and objectively examining the linkages between Al-Qaida and the Taliban, which pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

It is critical that all sanctions regimes established by the Security Council ensure swift, fair and transparent procedures in their decision-making. The processes of listing and de-listing need to be guided by the same set of principles: fairness, credibility and transparency.

Concerning the 1540 Committee, India fully shares international concerns over the serious threat posed by nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation to international security. We are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to non-State actors and terrorists could entail. The international community must join hands to eliminate the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of terrorists and non-State actors. The international response to the threat needs to be national, as well as multilateral and global. India has an unwavering commitment to global efforts for preventing the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery. We support the work of the 1540 Committee in accordance with its mandate. We propose to host a workshop of the Committee later this year.

In conclusion, we need greater international, regional and subregional cooperation in our counter-terrorism efforts. International cooperation and concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors, including the complete dismantling of terrorist safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds and financial and ideological support structures are critical imperatives for defeating the scourge of terrorism.

Our collective endeavour should be to enhance coherence and synergy among different counter-terrorism structures that are dealing with the issue of terrorism within the United Nations. In this context, we welcome the recent initiative of the Secretary-General for Member States to consider the creation of the post of United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, and express our willingness to fully engage in all deliberations aimed at further improving the cross-institutional coherence and effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. We need to bear in mind that success in the implementation of counter-terrorism measures not only requires the fullest cooperative and collective effort by all Member States, but also their fullest participation in processes that affect the collective security of all the nations equally.

The President: I thank Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Baso Sangqu, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): I am very pleased, as Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), to give an overview of the main developments in the work of the Committee since the most recent joint briefing, on 14 November 2011 (see S/PV.6658), in addition to the information just delivered by Ambassador Wittig in the joint statement.

I will update the Council on the first annual review of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) conducted by the Committee and on recent activities. Before I do so, I want to express my gratitude to Lebanon for having served as acting Chair of the Committee at the end of 2011.

In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee conducted, with the assistance of its experts, its first annual review on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The review showed the progress made by States and other activities relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011. The report on the review was transmitted to the Security Council on 1 February 2012 (S/2012/79, annex) and is structured in two parts. The first part provides a factual summary of the year under consideration, based on the structure of resolution 1977 (2011) in the areas of implementation, assistance, cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, and transparency and outreach. The second part is analytical, with a forward-looking perspective, identifying nine steps that the Committee may consider, taking into account recommendations contained in the report submitted to the Security Council on 12 September 2011 (S/2011/579). The annual review is also available on the website of the 1540 Committee.

Since the most recent joint briefing, the 1540 Committee has conducted activities focused on implementation, assistance, cooperation with international organizations, and outreach and transparency, in accordance with resolution 1977 (2011) and with the tenth programme of work of the Committee for the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012.

With regard to implementation, monitoring and facilitating, the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States is a key function of the Committee, bearing in mind that the full implementation of the resolution by States is a long-term task. As no initial report on the implementation of the resolution has been received since the most recent joint briefing, the number of States that have not yet submitted a report remains at 25. However, the Committee has received additional information from several States. Belarus informed the Committee of its intention to prepare a national framework document on the implementation of the resolution. Serbia informed the Committee of the adoption of a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for the period 2012-2016. Montenegro provided the Committee with point of contact information.

In addition, experts supporting the Committee have conducted country-specific dialogues with several States, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the resolution. Experts conducted a site visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the United States of America country visit. This was done at the invitation of the United States Government, which wished to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Let me also note that a visit was planned to the Republic of the Congo, at its invitation, to discuss several aspects of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the submission of an initial report. The visit was eventually postponed owing to the accidental fire in the central arms and ammunition depot in Brazzaville. I ensure the Republic of the Congo of our sympathy for their situation and of our willingness to reschedule the visit at a more convenient time.

On assistance, the 1540 Committee continues to actively play its clearinghouse role to facilitate matchmaking between requests and offers of assistance in relation with the implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004). In that regard, the Committee continues to implement its revised guidelines on processing assistance requests. Since the most recent joint briefing, the Committee has received additional information regarding assistance from Serbia and point of contact information for assistance from Madagascar. As Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I have sent letters to States and regional organizations that have requested assistance to inform them of the responses received and to enquire whether their requests were met.

In anticipation of the Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group meeting in Washington, D.C., on 24 and 25 January 2012, the Committee approved an updated consolidated list of assistance requests prepared by its experts and shared it with the presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8) for distribution to the G-8 partners, calling for a substantive and proactive dialogue on that issue. Since the most recent joint briefing, the 1540 Committee and its experts have participated in three meetings of the Global Partnership Working Group, where assistance and capacity-building matters were discussed.

The Committee continues to cooperate with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, participating in outreach events organized or co-organized, for instance, by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the League of Arab States, the Counter-Terrorism Committee

Executive Directorate (CTED), the World Customs Organization and the secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States.

The Committee received a briefing from the Chair of The Hague Code of Conduct, who noted that, although the Code had not been negotiated within the framework of the United Nations, it had a valuable role to play in furthering the aims of resolution 1540 (2004).

The Committee received points of contact information from the African Union and the OSCE. The Committee has also received a communication from the OSCE submitting point of contact information for 44 of its participating States, in accordance with OSCE Decision 19/11, entitled "Points of Contact on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)", adopted on 14 December 2011.

The Committee may consider a strategy for engaging with international, regional and subregional organizations and other entities, as appropriate, in particular with respect to information-sharing, the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and cooperation in assisting Member States.

Since our most recent joint briefing, the Committee and its experts have participated in 31 outreach events, listed on the website of the Committee. These include participation in the first Conference of International, Regional and Subregional Industry Associations on Resolution 1540 (2004) held in Germany, from 23 to 25 April 2012, which was attended by Committee members from both Germany and Pakistan.

The Committee, with the assistance of its experts, has also participated in various country-specific activities, including Albania, Belarus, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Myanmar and Turkmenistan.

Transparency is a key principle guiding the work of the Committee. With the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee undertook a major redesign of its website, which has been launched and can now be accessed in its new configuration.

Before I conclude, let me highlight two matters on which, I hope, it will be possible for the Committee to make progress. The first is the establishment of a group of experts in support of the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee has approved and transmitted to the Council recommendations for the structure, methods, modalities, expertise and geographical representation of the Committee and the group of experts. A call for nominations was subsequently launched, and Committee members are now actively consulting on finalizing the process of establishing the group. As Chair of the Committee, I call for a speedy conclusion to that process and establishment of the new group of experts without delay, as it is already becoming clear that the work of the Committee and the progress it has made so far will be adversely affected if we do not have a group of experts in place as soon as possible.

The second matter before the Committee is that of strengthening the existing administrative and logistics support for the Committee by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as requested by the Council in paragraph 22 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011), including through strengthening the regional capacity of UNODA to support implementation of the resolution at the regional, subregional and national levels. Completing those two tasks will be a major focus of the Committee's work in the upcoming period.

I would now like, if I may, to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

South Africa believes that the United Nations remains at the forefront of international efforts to combat terrorism. Those efforts should comply with legal norms and standards and with human rights and humanitarian law. The Security Council and the three terrorism-related Committees play an important role in that regard. We therefore support strengthened coordination and cooperation among the Committees, and believe that their efforts should complement the work of the General Assembly on counter-terrorism, particularly the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

South Africa believes that in implementing our various obligations under resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), we should take into account the need for a Member State-driven agenda. Accordingly, we recognize that it is up to each State to contextualize the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy within its own national framework. This will make it relevant to the overall objective of combating the threats of terrorism and of the possibility that non-State actors, including terrorists, may acquire weapons of mass destruction.

In that regard, we welcome the continuing work of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in promoting cooperation in implementing the Strategy, and their close cooperation with the terrorism-related Committees. As we have heard from the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the three expert groups have been able to work cooperatively and share information on specific themes and activities. We welcome these and other ongoing efforts to improve the Committee's procedures and working methods, particularly in order to streamline processes, avoid duplication and create transparency.

We also value the work being done by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and CTED to provide technical assistance to those States that request it, to facilitate Member States' compliance with the relevant decisions of the Security Council, and to assist in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Security Council sanctions have to be capable of withstanding legal scrutiny, including on the question of due process. There are a number of well-documented legal challenges in various parts of the world to the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime. We therefore welcome the efforts to create fair and transparent procedures for the listing and delisting processes. Similarly, the Office of the Ombudsperson, with the support of Council members, is playing a significant role in strengthening the legitimacy and credibility of the work of the sanctions committees.

South Africa emphasizes that we should look carefully at the proposed appointment of a counter-terrorism coordinator. Such a position should have an appropriate mandate and scope, and take into account the specific mandates of the various United Nations structures dealing with terrorism. My delegation is of the view that the creation of any new office should be measured against its potential contribution to facilitating international efforts to combat terrorism, rather than duplicating existing structures or placing an additional burden on Member States, especially those of the developing world.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a threat to the very existence of humankind. South Africa's concern about the use or threat of use of such weapons also extends to the potential threat that non-State actors may acquire materials that could be used for the development of those weapons and their delivery systems. However, we are heartened by the commitment expressed by many developing countries to implementing their commitments to preventing non-State actors, including terrorists, from acquiring such materials.

It is important that those concerns be addressed with the proper understanding that, as States implement their Chapter VII obligations as contained in resolution 1540 (2004), their national ownership of that process is to be respected. South Africa has tried to reach out in a more even-handed manner to developing countries. We have noticed that one of the key recent trends emerging in the Committee from the developing world's perspective is the increasing number of States that have requested some form of assistance in implementing their legally binding obligations under the resolution, while we are also pleased that resolution 1977 (2011) provides us with a mechanism by which to do so.

In conclusion, the Council has an important role to play in ensuring that the counter-terrorism strategy of the United Nations shall become more transparent and accountable to the wider membership that it represents. South Africa is pleased to note that some progress has been made in that regard, and we hope that our efforts to find a sustainable strategy to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to eradicate the dangers posed by non-State actors, including the possibility of terrorists' acquiring sensitive materials, remain at the centre of our discussions.

The President: I thank Ambassador Sangqu for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council wishing to make statements.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): The United States would like to commend the work of the Committee Chairs, Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu, for their exceptional efforts and strong leadership.

As we look back on the past decade, the Council's sustained commitment to promoting the implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) has helped to cement a global consensus against terrorism in all its forms. As a result, we now have stronger legal and policy tools for fighting terrorism at both the national and regional levels.

Even though Osama Bin Laden no longer directs the Al-Qaida organization, we remain gravely concerned that Al-Qaida and its affiliates continue to carry out unconscionable acts of terrorism in diverse regions of the world. The Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities must continue to be vigilant and to adapt to that evolving threat. We particularly encourage the Committee, with the support of its Monitoring Team, to rededicate itself to ensuring the full implementation of the 1267 assets freeze, arms embargo and travel ban. We envision swift and credible responses to reported non-compliance, as well as the provision of training and capacity-building support. We also welcome recent major improvements in the fairness and transparency of the Committee's work, and once again commend the Ombudsperson for her hard work and diligence.

We continue to strongly support the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) in monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We are particularly pleased that the work of CTED has evolved in recent years to become more hands-on and practical in its focus. In a spirit of innovation and collaboration, CTED should continue to strengthen its work at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels to facilitate capacity-building assistance. We believe that the new United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism is already helping to focus the Organization's system on improving coordination on counter-terrorism issues. We also think that the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, as proposed by the Secretary-General, can help foster a more strategic and coordinated United Nations approach to those issues.

In such an environment, we hope that there will be further opportunities for the CTC and CTED to address some of the critical civilian counter-terrorism challenges of today. For example, more work remains to be done in countering the increase in kidnapping for ransom as a means of financing terrorism and other criminal activity. It poses a threat to all nations and their citizens. As a first step to eradicating that practice, we need to help ensure that terrorist hostage-takers cannot enjoy the benefits of ransoms.

As we discussed in last month's Security Council meeting on illicit cross-border trafficking (see S/PV.6760), the United Nations must also improve its ability to help Member States to secure porous or unguarded borders that allow terrorists to travel with impunity. The United Nations has a role to play in helping States to strengthen the capacity of civilian courts to prosecute and convict terrorists. The United States is pleased to continue to support CTED-led projects that bring together practitioners at the regional and subregional levels to address common counter-terrorism challenges.

This year, under our presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8), the United States has promoted the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in both the Global Partnership and the Non-Proliferation Directors Group. The G-8 continues to work closely with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to find meaningful ways to respond to requests for assistance from Member States, including by engaging with international governmental organizations that are able to provide programmes and training.

In September 2011, the United States hosted the first country visit by the Committee and its Group of Experts to review our whole-of-Government approach to preventing the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. We are pleased to see that other States have similarly invited the Committee to conduct such visits and to share their best practices for implementing resolution 1540 (2004). We hope that that trend continues.

To ensure continued progress, the United States strongly encourages other Member States and regional organizations to contribute to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. The implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) does more than address proliferation issues. It also benefits Member States by focusing on broader security concerns, such as border controls, trafficking in drugs and weapons, maritime security and public health, all of which contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

We are pleased with the progress made by the Committees under the capable leadership of the Chairs. The Council's counter-terrorism efforts will guide and reinforce the actions of Member States to deter terrorism, including the threats posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups, as well as proliferation efforts by non-State actors.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Ambassadors Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Sangqu for their briefings. I also wish to express my appreciation for their leadership as the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and resolution 1540 (2004), respectively.

The Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee is an important counter-terrorism body of the Security Council. Recently, the Committee has made substantial and sustained efforts to review the procedures for listing, de-listing and updating the sanctions list and has made extensive efforts to comprehensively implement resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011). China supports the Committee's efforts to regularly review the sanctions list, as planned, and to strengthen its contact with the relevant States. China welcomes the support provided to the Committee by the Monitoring Team. We note the effective work undertaken by the Office of the Ombudsperson to safeguard the fairness and transparency of the sanctions regime. We hope that Member States will actively cooperate with the Committee's work in order to preserve the authority and effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has also undertaken significant work in terms of implementing resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions. China would like to express its appreciation for such efforts. China supports the work of the CTC in organizing regional workshops and in providing technical assistance through the CTC Executive Directorate. We hope that the Committee will continue to engage in dialogue with Member States and to help them to strengthen their counter-terrorism capacity.

China is pleased to see that the 1540 Committee has successfully completed its first annual review (S/2012/79, annex), and has made encouraging progress in terms of promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by providing assistance and by undertaking outreach activities. China supports the Committee in continuing with its sound and steady work to further achieve the various goals of resolution 1540 (2004) in a comprehensive, balanced and effective manner, and in assisting countries in fulfilling their obligations under the provisions of the resolution.

The Committee's current priority is to officially establish a group of experts. China supports the Chair in undertaking consultations with all relevant parties and in promptly reaching consensus on outstanding issues. China is ready to work with all parties to promote the international non-proliferation process.

Terrorism is the common enemy of the international community. As a victim of terrorism, China is opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to the practice of double standards with regard to counter-terrorism. China supports the United Nations and the Security Council playing a key role in international counter-terrorism cooperation, as well as enhanced cooperation and coordination among the relevant bodies.

We support the presidential statement on counter-terrorism recently adopted by the Council (S/PRST/2012/17), and hope that the international community will continue to strengthen its cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We express our gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa for their reports on the work of the Committees under their leadership. We see the work of the Committees and their increased cooperation as significant preconditions for strengthening the effectiveness of the Security Council's contribution to countering global terrorism, which remains one of the main threats to international peace and security.

We welcome the Security Council's leadership on counter-terrorism, as affirmed by the Security Council meeting on 4 May (see S/PV.6765). The adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2012/17 at that meeting sends an important signal for the strengthening of joint efforts to counter the existing terrorist threat. The need for such an effort was further underscored by today's terrorist acts in Damascus, in which many civilians, including children, were killed. We call on the Security Council to resolutely condemn that dreadful crime.

We note with satisfaction that the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has continued to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) through the preliminary assessments of implementation and country visits. There is still room for improvement under those mechanisms. The CTC will address such issues, but, in principle, the existing capacities affirm their effectiveness. Through those efforts, the Committee has also demonstrated the specialized experience gained by States. In that context, we set great store by the CTC's proposed visit to Russia.

One of the main outcomes of the Committee's work was the adoption of the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), which sought to counteract incitement to terrorism and its ideological support (see S/2012/16). The review was carried out pursuant to resolution 1963 (2010) and is an important element in implementing the CTC plan of action and resolution 1624 (2005), as initiated by Russia.

Russia actively participated in drafting the report on that important topic. The main findings in the document encouraged the international community, the Security Council, the CTC and the CTC Executive Directorate (CTED) to strengthen their efforts to pre-empt and prevent terrorism and violent extremism and to combat the radicalization of society.

We note that in the review, as in other decisions of the Security Council, mention is made of the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. This problem requires particular attention and the development of universal legal standards under the auspices of the United Nations.

We also welcome the review's stress on issues related to enhancing intercultural dialogue and interfaith understanding. We view this important long-term undertaking in the context of combating the ideological breeding ground of terrorism and preventing new supporters from joining terrorists' ranks. We continue to support the strengthening of contacts between the CTC and international and regional organizations with a view to the further establishment of an extensive network of counter-terrorist cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations.

We take note of the close and regular contacts of the CTC and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004) with the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations on terrorism-related issues, which was initiated by the Russian Federal Security Service. Another briefing was held early this year with the representatives of the Meeting to the CTC. We are determined to continue this useful practice.

We welcome the role of the CTED in rendering assistance to the CTC. We support the participation of the Directorate on the basis of the existing mandate, as well as the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its cooperation with the expert groups of the specialized Committees of the Security Council.

We note once again that the updated mandate contained in resolution 1963 (2010) sets significant challenges for the Directorate and calls on CTED as a whole and its leadership to continue to work tirelessly. We had hoped that the modifications made last June to the sanctions regime of the 1267 Committee and the splitting off from it of the anti-Taliban component would help promote national reconciliation in Afghanistan. Sadly, at this time that is not happening, as Taliban activity is continuing.

We continue to believe that drawing a clear line between Al-Qaida and mere Taliban supporters is very complex. Al-Qaida does not seem to be about to leave Afghanistan or break off its ties with the Taliban. One can argue that the two organizations have different agendas, but no one can deny that they still have close terrorist ties and cooperation. Against that backdrop, the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) remains one of the most effective mechanisms of the Security Council in the field of counter-terrorism, and its sanctions list should duly reflect the threat emerging from Al-Qaida, which is spreading to new regions. We support the proposal to include additional individuals on the list.

However, the practice of the application of sanctions against entities and individuals involved in terrorist activities should continue to be done on a case-by-case basis and in compliance with due procedures. The expanded powers of the Ombudsperson on delisting and new procedures for the consideration of requests for delisting have ensured an optimal level of transparency for the Committee's procedures thus far.

In considering issues related to further procedural improvements, we must not be carried away by populism or try to involve the Committee in functions that are outside its remit, but rather work on the basis of fully upholding the fundamental principles and expeditiousness of its work.

Another important task is enhancing the effectiveness of the sanctions mechanisms, which fully depends on the implementation by States of their international commitments in that area.

Regrettably, we are once again forced to note that in that respect outstanding problems remain. The Stockholm-based website Kavkaz Center — the information portal of the terrorist organization Caucus Emirates, which was listed in July 2011 — remains up and running. That is in breach of paragraph 6 of resolution 1989 (2011), whereby this site should be subjected to financial sanctions leading to a cessation of its activities. The Swedish authorities have still not implemented that resolution, effectively allowing the site to continue propagating the ideas of terrorism and religious intolerance.

The prevention of any possibility of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials falling into the hands of terrorists is an important task facing the international community. A key international legal instrument for its implementation remains resolution 1540 (2004), which encourages States to strengthen national systems for monitoring and control in the sphere of non-proliferation.

Russia calls for the full implementation of the resolution by all countries, taking into account the comprehensive long-term nature of its requirements. We welcome the work done by the 1540 Committee and its experts during the reporting period. In particular, we note the adoption of the report on the annual review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), which takes stock of the progress achieved in 2011 and sets new objectives. We welcome the determination of its Chair to give the activities of the Committee a regular and systemic nature.

The Committee must continue prioritizing issues related to the provision of assistance to States in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by playing a coordinating role in the activities of the international community towards that end. For our part, we are willing to continue actively to support efforts in the area of assistance, including in the context of our cooperation on issues related to resolution 1540 (2004) with the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We hope that very soon we will see the establishment of a group of experts for that Committee and that it will once again enjoy full expert support.

In conclusion, I should like to note that the idea of the Secretary-General to create the post of a special representative on counter-terrorism issues merits thorough consideration by the States Members of the United Nations during the upcoming review of the Global Strategy. Its implementation could enhance the coordination of the activities carried out in this sphere of the numerous organs both within the United Nations system and outside. However, it should not lead to any changes in the mandates of those organs or be detrimental to them. That applies above all to the counter-terrorist structures of the Security Council.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to begin by thanking Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu for their informative briefings and for the skill and dedication they have displayed at the helm of the Security Council subsidiary Committees that they respectively head.

First, with respect to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), I should like to note the current threat posed by Al-Qaida. We are aware that sanctions regimes have contributed to undermining sources of terrorist funding and have succeeded in suppressing acts of terrorism. However, there is evidence that the threat posed by Al-Qaida continues to evolve; thus the Committee, with the first-rate assistance of the Monitoring Team, must continue to analyse the threat and adapt its work to the changing nature of terrorism and its diverse manifestations. This must obviously be duly reflected on the list.

We welcome the improvements made by the Committee concerning procedural guarantees and the consideration of applications for listing and delisting. Resolution 1989 (2011) represents not only progress in terms of the rights of the persons and entities that are included on the list, but it also makes it possible to strengthen the credibility of the sanctions regime. By delisting persons and entities who and which should not be on the list, we have made the list into a living reflection of the current state of the threat.

We urge the Committee to continue its work, taking into account the opinions of other Member States, particularly those of States whose inhabitants or nationals appear on the list. However, such interaction must take place in full respect of the independence of the recommendations of the Ombudsperson, the confidentiality of the process and established deadlines and procedures, which provide legal certainty to the mechanisms for listing and delisting.

That brings me to the work carried out by the Ombudsperson, whom we congratulate and thank for her independence, professionalism and courage. We were pleased by that experience and are interested in developing the idea put forth by some States to extend that position to all sanctions committees.

We believe that the terms of reference establishing that office did not limit it solely to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, but included all of the others. The work of the Security Council must be transparent and respect the rule of law, thus an ombudsperson for each of the committees would be eminently justifiable.

Secondly, over the last decade the role of the Security Council in the fight against terrorism has grown and evolved very quickly. There have been many successes since the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). My delegation is grateful for the outstanding support provided on that issue by both the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

My country believes that for there to continue to be progress, first, closer dialogue among United Nations Member States is crucial; secondly, work must continue on developing mechanisms to provide technical assistance to those countries that request it, and thirdly, a regional approach must be adopted, as paying special attention to the specificities of each region enables greater understanding of the challenges and recommendations applicable to the reality of each country.

Another important point to add is that greater emphasis must be put on the conditions that foster terrorism and allow it to spread. Guatemala believes that effective efforts to counter terrorism depend on our ability to address successfully the economic, social and political conditions that feed the phenomenon. Thus, the prevention of terrorist acts and the elimination of incitements to terrorism, including extremism and intolerance, are vitally important and should serve as a departure point in seeking a lasting solution to the threat of terrorism.

In that vein, we support the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) and welcome the global inquiry into its implementation. We highly value the work to assess the various levels of experience and problems of countries and regions in relation to the implementation of the resolution.

Thirdly, resolution 1540 (2004) has been used as one of the main international instruments in preventing weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials from falling into the hands of non-State actors, in particular, terrorists. Resolution 1977 (2011) determined the principal role of the United Nations and the Security Council in those matters and established the conditions needed to encourage multilateral endeavours.

The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) plays a fundamental role in coordinating and enhancing the efficiency of the work carried out. We believe that the Committee and its Expert Group have worked in a commendable fashion during the reporting period in promoting intensified international activity aimed at combating the risks and threats of proliferation.

Guatemala welcomes the measures taken to ensure consistency in the work of the Committee and believes it is important to continue those efforts. The 1540 Committee has also proved to be a vital mechanism in supporting and assisting Member States through continued efforts aimed at promoting and developing their abilities to counter those threats. Guatemala acknowledges and pays tribute to the work carried out in that area.

With respect to the work of the Expert Group of the 1540 Committee, we believe that their work pursuant to resolution 1977 (2011) is of the greatest importance. Without the support provided by the Group to Member States, in particular the developing countries, it would prove difficult for many of them to draw up action plans, submit national reports and make progress on the measures necessary to comply with the provisions of the resolution. We wish, therefore, to underscore that the Committee must refer its recommendations on the eight experts selected in accordance with the previously agreed criteria, in particular a broad geographical representation, to the Secretary-General as quickly as possible, as they reflect the legitimate interests of the international community for a balanced and equitable representation. Resolution 1977 (2011) is clear in establishing the criteria for the selection of the experts, compliance with which is important to ensure that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) maintains its legitimacy.

Guatemala trusts that the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council will continue to promote cooperation among Member States and help them to overcome obstacles to implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa, as well as deserving of our gratitude, may also be assured that we will provide our full support to their work.

Mr. Alzate (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank Ambassadors Peter Wittig of Germany, Hardeep Singh Puri of India and Baso Sangqu of South Africa for their detailed reports on the work of the counter-terrorism Committees and for their dynamic leadership of them. The recommendations and analyses they have presented to the Council all deserve careful analysis.

The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (CTC) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) contribute to strengthening all capacities of Member States related to implementation of their obligations pursuant to the various international instruments and to promoting international cooperation to counter terrorism. It is therefore crucial to strengthen coordination activities, continuously assess the working methods and strengthen the tools available in order to promote assistance and cooperation among Member States.

Colombia wishes to underscore the importance of the work being carried out, pursuant to their mandates, by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and Entities and the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). There is a need for greater information-sharing, for more coordination of visits to countries under their respective mandates, for more efficient delivery and follow-up of technical assistance, and for closer relations with regional and international organizations and organs.

I should like to refer to the 1267 and 1989 Committee. Strict compliance with the provisions of resolution 1989 (2011) is essential. The effective implementation of sanctions depends on keeping the list current and on the quality of information provided by Member States to update it, adding, keeping or removing individuals or entities. The sanctions regime reforms introduced in resolution 1989 (2011) have promoted due process, transparency and the quality of the list. The new procedure for updating the list represents real progress, especially as regards individuals no longer living or entities that either no longer exist or about which there is so little identifying information that effective action is impossible. It is essential to comply with the procedures and timetables provided for in the resolution provides.

Bolstering the Office of the Ombudsperson and its mandate continue to be critical to the legitimacy of the sanction regime. The number of de-listing requests processed by the Office, its reports to the Committee and the decisions taken to date as a result show that the Office effectively promotes transparency and safeguards rights. We strongly believe that such a mechanism should be established for all sanctions committees.

I now turn to the CTC and the recent CTED global survey of the implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16), outlining the significant achievements of Member States' efforts to fight terrorism. The report focuses in particular on respect for human rights and the growing awareness that listening to victims is an important strategic element in preventing terrorism and incitement to terrorist acts. The Directorate should focus on that aspect even more. We must concentrate on protecting and defending the rights of victims and their families. They must be listened to, and Member States must be provided with the necessary mechanisms to offer assistance, heal their pain and take concrete measures to protect and promote their rights. My delegation underlines the Committee's recent work to review the procedure for preliminary evaluations for the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), so as to improve its value as an information-gathering tool. We hope that the new procedure will facilitate dialogue with the Member States.

The proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction and related materials, along with the risk that they fall into the hands of non-State armed groups and terrorists, is a serious threat to international peace and security. It is therefore crucial to maintain close cooperation and effective coordination among the relevant anti-terrorism committees and their respective groups of experts.

Colombia recognizes and commends the work being done at the regional, subregional and international levels to bolster implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). We have therefore convened several meetings and workshops on strengthening national capacities through cooperation and aid. The first seminar for the Andean region on resolution 1540 (2004), held last March in Bogota, helped to identify areas of cooperation among members and ways of improving relations between Andean States and regional and international organizations.

Resolution 1977 (2011), extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee for 10 years, established a group of experts to support the Committee in fulfilling its functions, based on the expertise and wide regional representation of its members. My delegation reiterates the importance of honouring those criteria in the selection process in which the Committee is currently engaged.

We believe that the Secretary-General's recommendation to designate a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator should be seriously discussed by the General Assembly in its review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In order to avoid duplicating existing structures, the Assembly should bear in mind that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force was established to ensure coordination and coherence in the United Nations efforts to confront the international scourge of terrorism, as it carries out the principles and purposes of the Charter.

To facilitate the full implementation and fulfilment of obligations under Security Council resolutions on terrorism, we believe it essential to increase technical assistance to Member States in building their national capacities and to provide the tools they need to pursue their fight against terrorism.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sanqu for their briefings and for their work chairing the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1549 (2004). The Council has recently had the chance to demonstrate its resolve in the fight against terrorism in the debate held on 4 May (see S/PV.6765). The work of the three Committees is a crucial response to the ongoing and varied threats posed by terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

I align myself with the statement to be made by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union.

The threat posed by Al-Qaida has changed but remains an immediate danger. Efforts to improve the implementation of resolution 1989 (2011) must therefore be pursued. In that regard, I commend the work of the Monitoring Team, which, through regular contact with Member States, contributes to improving the implementation of sanctions. It has also helped to make the sanctions list more functional by finding mechanisms to improve its accuracy and by modifying its procedure so as to facilitate its implementation and by States and financial institutions.

To continue to adapt to the threat, it is important that the Committees continue its cooperation with INTERPOL and the Financial Action Task Force. Inasmuch as the threat posed by Al-Qaida has expanded to new regions, we believe that the Monitoring Team should concentrate more intensively on those areas.

We recall that resolution 1989 (2011) improved guarantees of due process, thanks especially to its strengthening of the role of the Ombudsperson, whose excellent work we commend. Strengthening the role of the Ombudsperson not only promotes the rights of individuals and entities on the list, but is also a key factor in guaranteeing the list's legitimacy.

The implementation of sanctions against Al-Qaida is crucial, but we know that it alone cannot constitute a response to the threat of terrorism. All States must therefore build up prevention and suppression mechanisms. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), with the support of its Executive Directorate, helps States to do that. The Committee has studied in depth the resources and needs of all States, thanks to resolution 1373 (2001), producing preliminary evaluations. We commend the efforts under way to improve that analysis tool.

Since the last Council meeting on the subject (see S/PV.6658), the Committee has also studied the Directorate's global survey of the implementation by Member States of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16), which aims to prevent incitements to terrorist acts. It is vital that the report dedicate a section to upholding human rights on that complex subject. We also wish to welcome the efforts of the Committee, and in particular of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), in involving other organizations in those activities, in particular the contacts on the Sahel between CTED and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

Finally, the holding of thematic workshops should be encouraged, as they allow us to raise specific subjects related to countering terrorism at the regional level and to step up regional cooperation. As an example, I would cite regional workshops conducted on the prevention of the abusive use of non-profit organizations for funding terrorism. We know the difficulties that certain non-governmental organizations can encounter in trying to protect themselves from that risk.

Nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical terrorism remains one of the main threats to our security. The Council reiterated that point in its presidential statement of 19 April (S/PRST/2012/14) during the debate on nuclear security (see S/PV.6753). Progress has been made in responding to the threat. The issues and actions arising from resolution 1540 (2004) since 2004 have been widely taken up throughout the United Nations, and States have adopted numerous measures to implement the resolution. In particular, since we are meeting just a few weeks after the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, major efforts have been made at the very highest levels to better combat the nuclear terror threat and to safeguard the most vulnerable sources.

In that respect, we are pleased that the Seoul Summit took fully into account the question of radiological terrorism. It also provided an opportunity for reiterating our collective support for existing instruments and mechanisms to strengthen nuclear security and highlight the need for the relevant resolutions to be fully implemented by all the States concerned. For its part, France recently revised its rules for the physical protection of nuclear materials. All those efforts must be continued ahead of the third summit in the Netherlands in 2014.

Regarding the 1540 Committee, resolution 1977 (2011) gave it the tools to better carry out its mandate. We are welcome the progress that the Committee has made in its implementation since our last meeting by conveying to the Council its annual review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and its recommendations for the group of experts. But that is not enough. It is vital above all for the group of experts to be established. Only three experts are currently helping the Committee, and their contracts will expire on 31 May. That situation is not tenable when the workload continues to grow.

Moreover, it is necessary for the Committee to define, as stipulated in the resolution, specific priorities for its work and to develop knowledge-sharing and good practices. It is by making full use of those new instruments that the 1540 Committee will see its capacities improved and that we will be able to offer real help to countries in fighting proliferation and adapting to new challenges in that realm.

I now come to assistance in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). As the Council knows, my country coordinates the Working Group on that issue. Much progress has been made, although there is still a long way to go. The Committee regularly updates its database of requests for and offers of assistance; that data was presented at the Group of Eight (G-8) meeting in Washington, D.C., in late January. In that respect, we welcome the attempt of the Committee and its experts to step up dialogue with the G-8 working group in that area. Moreover, the development of country-specific visits is a step forward that should be continued. Finally, other efforts are under way to improve the Committee's procedures for providing assistance, better respond to relevant requests, and continue regular dialogue with the various stakeholders regarding assistance.

It is paramount not only to continue unceasingly to improve coordination among the United Nations counter-terrorism committees, but also to strengthen cooperation with other United Nations forums and external forums, for example, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. We are counting on the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to enhance that cooperation.

Finally, as the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will take place in June, it is vital to strengthen coordination of the various United Nations counter-terrorism bodies. In that respect, we support the recommendation of the Secretary-General to create the post of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): Let me thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001), and 1540 (2004), Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu, for their comprehensive briefings today and for their effective leadership of those Committees.

Let me start with the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. I would like to focus on two issues here: on the role of the Ombudsperson and on the importance of robustly implementing the sanctions.

The United Kingdom strongly supports the Office of the Ombudsperson. Ensuring that the Ombudsperson has access to all possible sources of information, including classified information, is crucial to the process. The United Kingdom is among those States that have concluded an arrangement with the Ombudsperson through which to share confidential information relevant to de-listing requests. Such agreements reinforce our collective endeavour to ensure that the sanctions remain effective, responsive and fair. We encourage all Member States to enter into their own agreements with the Ombudsperson.

We must not be complacent about the global terrorist threat posed by Al-Qaida. We encourage the Sanctions Committee to continue its work to ensure that sanctions are implemented robustly. We welcome the effective work of the Monitoring Team to that end.

The Al-Qaida sanctions remain highly relevant. They play a vital role in disrupting groups and individuals, making it more difficult for them to operate. The United Kingdom will continue to work actively to ensure that the list of those designated best represents the threat we face today.

The United Nations remains the cornerstone of the international community's counter-terrorism efforts. We know that terrorism can be defeated only when Member States meet their obligations under the relevant United Nations resolutions and cooperate fully to contest the terrorists' narrative and to prevent their activities. In that context, we condemn today's bomb attacks in Damascus, which have claimed over 40 lives and injured more than 300 people, most of them civilians. As the British Foreign Secretary said today, "[y]et again it is the people of Syria who are suffering as a result of the repression and violence, which must come to an end".

We commend the valuable work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) under the leadership of Mr. Mike Smith. CTED's work with Member States to help build capacity to combat terrorism remains essential. Greater coherence between the various parts of the United Nations counter-terrorism apparatus will further reinforce our efforts. That will require CTED and Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and all relevant United Nations agencies and offices to work together in a cooperative and mutually supportive way. That is why the United Kingdom supports the Secretary-General's announcement that he will seek to appoint a counter-terrorism coordinator. We look forward to working with all Member States, through the Security Council and the General Assembly, to make that a reality.

In that context, we also welcome the initial meetings following the creation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, generously funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Centre can provide much needed support to the CTITF's activities.

As we work together in combating terrorism, we do not forget the particular challenges posed to our collective security by proliferation. We encourage States to provide updates as they make progress in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). States should recognize that action undertaken, for example, to improve the security of information relevant to weapons of mass destruction is relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Making such linkages will enable more effective reporting to the Committee.

The United Kingdom encourages all States, where appropriate, to engage with the international nuclear security initiatives and conventions and, for those that have yet to ratify the International Atomic Energy Agency's amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, to do so.

Finally, we hope that the composition of the 1540 expert group can be quickly resolved to ensure that the Committee will continue to benefit from its valuable support.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I should like to make some brief comments in my national capacity, first with regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and secondly on the Committee established pursuant to resolution resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. I preface this statement by saying that Germany aligns itself with the statements to be delivered on behalf of the European Union and of the group of like-minded countries.

At the most recent briefing of the three Committee Chairs on 14 November 2011 (see S/PV.6658), I announced an industry outreach conference in Germany in order to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Six months later, I am pleased to report that my Government, together with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, successfully organized a conference of international, regional and subregional industry associations at Wiesbaden, Germany, from 23 to 25 April. The conference, we felt, was innovative, useful and forward-looking. It was innovative because never before had a conference related to resolution 1540 (2004) brought together such a variety of different actors, in particular from the private sector. Through over 25 participating industry associations, interaction between the 1540 Committee and industry in more than 100 countries — representing several thousand private enterprises — has become a reality.

The conference was useful because it fulfilled requirements spelled out in the Council's resolutions to reach out to industry in the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Industry associations expressed their willingness to disseminate relevant practices. More awareness-raising and the establishment of a two-way communication channel between the Committee and the private sector are only two of many tasks deriving from the event.

It was forward-looking, we felt, because many if not all participants expressed their desire for a follow-up mechanism. The Wiesbaden process will be continued. My country stands ready to actively contribute to a substantial follow-up in order to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). More specifically, the Germany Foreign Ministry would be willing to co-host further conferences and focused workshops on a regular basis. Germany also counts on the commitment of partners in this regard.

I should like to make some additional remarks on the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. Germany attaches the utmost importance to the implementation of the mandate of the Ombudsperson, who is tasked with assisting the Committee in ensuring that the right of listed individuals to a fair, independent and effective process is safeguarded. As Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, we will continue to focus on ensuring that procedures and timelines are respected and reasoned decisions provided. We commend the Ombudsperson, Judge Kimberley Prost, for her professional work and her tireless efforts.

In conclusion, regarding cooperation between the three counter-terrorism-related Committees, Germany shares the view that there is room for further improvement. The degree of cooperation should be taken to an even more ambitious level of integration, also in view of the proposal of the Secretary-General that Member States approve the establishment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. Committees and expert groups should agree on representing each other at outreach events more frequently. Cases in which representatives of more than one expert group participate in the same outreach event should be limited to well-reasoned exceptions. This will help to save limited resources for more focused and effective outreach activities, and to enhance the Security Council's impact in the field of counter-terrorism.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): I would like to thank Ambassador Peter Wittig, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri and Ambassador Baso Sangqu for their briefings today. We appreciate the coordination among the three Committees and their efforts in promoting greater transparency and dialogue with Member States concerning their respective areas of activities.

We share the view of the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities that the threat of terrorism is evolving, that the mechanism for the implementation of sanctions measures needs to be tailored to the threat, and that fair and clear procedures have been introduced by the Ombudsperson, at least in the de-listing processes, if not in all processes of the Committee.

We are of the view that the evolving threat of terrorism has taken new forms, such as individuals radicalized by Internet and extremist websites in various parts of the world. In this context, it is important to ensure that the list of targeted individuals sufficiently reflects the changing nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida. We agree that the list needs to be accurate, up to date and user-friendly if the implementation of the sanctions is to be successful. We have noted the efforts of the 1267 Sanctions Committee to bring clarity to its working methods and to improve its guidelines. We hope that the Committee shall continue to bring greater transparency to its work.

Pakistan appreciates the fact that the role of the Ombudsperson has been enhanced by resolution 1989 (2011). Since November 2011, four individuals and 23 entities have been de-listed on the recommendation of the Ombudsperson. We hope that a similar role will also be devised for the Ombudsperson in the listing processes. We also expect that the demonstration effect of the Ombudsperson's positive contribution will lead us to introduce this institution into all other sanctions regimes in order to ensure due process and transparency in their work.

We feel that visits to States by the Monitoring Team and expert groups should be used to foster cooperation by facilitating the provision of technical assistance and promoting constructive dialogue. We hope that post-visit briefings and reports shall continue to be made on a regular basis. These have been useful in enhancing the Committee's understanding of issues and promoting transparency.

The biggest challenge to the sanctions regime, however, comes from the increasing number of court cases. For example, A number of listings have been challenged in Pakistani courts. The decisions of domestic and international courts and tribunals on the Al-Qaida sanctions regime have not only gained publicity but brought to the fore the legal challenges faced by the sanctions regime. It remains to be seen whether new changes will satisfy courts around the world, because the legal community is more inclined to welcome verifiable evidence that could be acceptable in a court of law. The questions of due process and effective remedy should therefore be at the heart of the Committee's work.

Terrorism has become the bane of all countries alike. Resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) have no doubt created equal obligations for all of us. Terrorism is not a localized or region-specific problem. The modern manifestations and mutations of terrorism, which range from the radicalization of individuals to financing of well-known groups from various parts of the world, endanger the peace and security of the entire world. The measures to combat this problem should therefore be based on equality of obligations and international cooperation and coordination.

Global cooperation against terrorism has been highly successful. Determined and collective action has contained and disrupted the violent agendas of the terrorists. The immediate and short-term anti-terrorist response must, however, be accompanied by a clear, long term strategy for success in ensuring an end to this murderous tactic. Such a strategy must include the following elements: addressing the root causes of terrorism, including, inter alia, delegitimizing the terrorist's cause; we must do more to address issues such as the denial of the right to self-determination, military intervention, and the use of force; addressing broader and structural issues, including political and economic injustices; and ensuring that counter-terrorism activities are in full conformity with international law and respect the sovereignty of States and fundamental human rights.

We support the Counter-Terrorism Committee's efforts to promote and facilitate the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We have noted the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). The issue of the prohibition of incitement to commit terrorist acts is very complex. On the one hand is the imperative of preventing incitement to terrorist acts, while, on the other is the challenge of ensuring freedom of expression, and hence the need to maintain the delicate balance. Besides, all efforts to counter incitement must be undertaken in the light of the agreed principle that terrorism and extremism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture or society.

The delegation of Pakistan supports the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), particularly in the area of capacity-building. CTED's regional workshops in Asia and Africa on specific topics will go a long way towards enhancing the capacities of States to effectively counter terrorism. Pakistan has been regularly participating in regional workshops organized by CTED. Pakistan participated in the fifth regional workshop in New Delhi in March 2012. We are planning to hold the sixth regional workshop for police officers, prosecutors and judges in South Asia on counter-terrorism, in Islamabad later this year.

Pakistan shares the global concerns over the possibility of non-State actors acquiring weapons and materials of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery. At the national level, we have undertaken several legislative, organizational and administrative measures to address those potential challenges. We have filed four comprehensive reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The 1540 Committee and the experts assisting it play an important and complementary role to the established treaty regimes and international organizations in the area of weapons of mass destruction. We will continue to support all international efforts to promote fair and equitable solutions to non-proliferation and disarmament challenges.

Coordination and cooperation among experts of the three Committees is a useful mechanism to assist Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolutions. In undertaking those efforts, the Committees and their respective experts work towards the shared objective of preventing terrorist activities and addressing illicit trafficking in weapons or materials of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. There are areas of synergy in their work, such as supporting States in building their capacity, law enforcement and border controls. Yet the Committees have distinct mandates and focus. This differentiated nature of mandate and focus needs to be adhered to. The duplication and overlap of activities and mandate is best avoided.

The composition of experts in the Committees needs rationalization and reform. With the shift in the core area of work of these Committees from establishing frameworks to implementation, particularly through assistance and capacity-building, it would be prudent to diversify the pool of experts from diverse geographic areas. Such an effort would also help advance an even better level of understanding and ownership of those important issues to a large number of Member States.

We value the information exchange among the experts and their efforts to save costs by representing alternatively at outreach events and joint meetings within their respective mandates. We look forward to receiving their joint feedback and assessment on areas of overlap and synergies in their work, mandate and activities.

Mr. Bouchaara (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this debate. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of India, Germany and South Africa for their briefings on the work of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). We commend the outstanding work they have done and assure them of Morocco's ongoing support as they carry out the important tasks of three Committees they preside over. Morocco has been able to cooperate in an exemplary fashion with the three Committees and their groups of experts and, as a Council member, shall spare no effort in the collective efforts to strengthen their role and fine-tune their actions.

The very useful discussion that the Council held on 4 May (S/PV.6765), at the commendable initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, provided an ideal opportunity to reaffirm our determination to pursue our joint efforts to strengthen and adapt the actions of the Security Council, including those of the three Committees, to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We welcome the fact that the Security Council is continuing to take important measures to consolidate the work of the counter-terrorism Committees and to adapt their mandates and work to the evolution of the threat and the needs of Member States. In that regard, we support the endeavours of the three Committees and the groups of experts that help them to achieve greater coordination, consistency and synergy as they implement their respective mandates. We also support greater transparency and increased dialogue with Member States in order to identify their needs and respond appropriately to their requests for assistance.

After more than a decade, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is still indispensable to our collective fight against terrorism. The revision of its mandate after the adoption of resolution 1963 (2010) made it possible to place greater emphasis on specific areas requiring more attention and action. We commend the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for completing the global survey of the implementation by Member States of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16). The useful conclusions of that survey are an important contribution to Member States efforts to counter new forms of radicalization and incitement to terrorism.

Morocco supports the general approach of the CTC, aiming, on the one hand, to consolidate a strategic and transparent approach and, on the other, to enhance the Committee's role of facilitating and coordinating the supply of technical assistance in building Member States' capacities to combat terrorism. The organization by the Executive Directorate of thematic workshops in a regional and transregional approach to technical aspects in combating terrorism remains a useful tool in building the capacities of Member States and improving the coordination of their counter-terrorism services. We encourage the Executive Directorate to explore, together with all of its partners, intensifying activities to foster dialogue, cooperation and coordination among Member States, in particular at the regional and subregional levels.

With regard to the concerns voiced by Council members in the course of the high-level meeting on 4 May, in particular on the critical situation in the Sahel, we believe that the CTC, as well as the 1267 and 1540 Committees, should pay particular attention to that region, which has recently witnessed a growth in terrorist attacks and in the degree of sophistication of such attacks carried out by groups operating in zones beset by political, economic and social problems. Morocco is ready to support all specific actions of the Council aimed at countering the risk of terrorism in the Sahel region.

The sanctions regime established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) is one of the most effective tools of the United Nations to combat terrorism and remains a symbol of our collective resolve to counter the threat of Al-Qaida and associated groups. We commend the regular review process for the consolidated list, which has improved its quality and consequently made the sanctions regime more effective. It is imperative that this exercise be continued with the same perseverance and discipline in order to maintain the credibility of the regime and keep it aligned with the evolution of the threat and the important changes in the modus operandi of terrorist groups. In that regard, we note with interest the recommendations made to the Committee by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in its twelfth report, particularly with regard to the means to adapt the sanctions regime to the regional spread of the Al-Qaida threat.

By and large, we remain in favour of greater coordination with Member States, aimed at supporting them as they carry out their obligations under the sanctions regime. It is important to take into account, as far as possible, the specific context of each region and the particular challenges each country faces. The continuous reform of the Committee's procedures in order to make them more equitable and transparent is an important goal that still captures the attention of all Committee members and encourages them to action. Here, we would like to pay tribute to the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberley Prost, for her commitment and the remarkable job she has done.

Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Morocco, which has presented an initial report and additional information, welcomes the work of the Committee and its role and that of its Chair in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and preventing their being acquired by non-State actors. The first report (S/2012/79) prepared pursuant to resolution 1977 (2011) and submitted to the Council in February 2012, reflects the efforts of the Committee in that regard and contains the Committee's proposals to make its work more effective in the future and to improve its interaction with Member States. In that connection, we would like to emphasize how important it is to bolster activities involving assistance and international cooperation to meet the needs of Member States. The guidelines laid out by the Committee should provide a basis for dialogue with Member States in order to identify shortcomings and difficulties in implementing the resolutions.

Lastly, if it is to be able to fulfil its role of supporting national implementation efforts, the Committee must have the expertise of a highly qualified panel of experts at its disposal. In that respect, it is urgent for the Committee to complete the appointment of the new members of the group of experts, taking into account the type of expertise needed and the principle of geographical representation.

Mr. Kandangha-Bariki (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would like, on behalf of the delegation of Togo, to express my gratitude to the Chairs of the three Committees, Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu, for their briefings, and to the members of the panel for their very helpful work. I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the role played by the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost, in seeking out the information needed for the proper implementation of the relevant resolutions. Finally, I would like to express our appreciation for the commendable work carried out by the monitoring team of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the experts from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Today's briefings have highlighted the need for the international community to create true synergy in the work of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), with a view to effectively countering the scourges that threaten international peace and security.

A few days ago, on 4 May (see S/PV.6765), the Security Council deliberated on the threats to international peace and security and on the need for cooperation among States themselves, among non-State organizations, and between States and these organizations to prevent the threat from perpetuating itself and to prevent certain materials from falling into the hands of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida.

The briefings just presented reveal in a number of respects how the three Committees have addressed this need to cooperate in order to confront terrorism. In that respect, my delegation would like to commend the work carried out by the Committees, which remain a vital part of the institutional arsenal of the Security Council in its ongoing struggle against terrorism. This struggle requires the cooperation and assistance of — as well as capacity-building for — subregional entities charged with promoting the implementation of the three relevant resolutions of the Council.

It goes without saying that our world today is, even more than yesterday, haunted by the spectre of new threats to international peace and security, which, needless to say, involve weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons and other dangerous materials falling into the hands of non-State actors. We must all pull together to face those threats. The briefings just presented to us were sufficiently enlightening. Nevertheless, my country would like to make the following observations.

First, it is gratifying to note that, in the most recent report presented by those Committees to the Council, significant headway has been made in terms of cooperation among States and regional and subregional organizations in implementing the aforementioned resolutions and in terms of capacity-building for the various stakeholders and the assistance that is given to them in adopting best practices to fulfil their commitments pursuant to those resolutions.

In the area under consideration, we welcome the willingness of States to provide the necessary information, allowing the Committees to deliver on commitments linked to their respective mandates. The merit of those positive developments reflects well on both the group of experts and the Committees.

Next, turning to the 1373 Committee, we note that the assessment of progress in implementation reflects the need to improve procedures for States' implementation of the resolution. However, the assessment calls for greater awareness and capacity-building, especially for States, in order to enable them to better understand this document, which we believe could yield more conclusive results. We call on the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to continue its tireless work on behalf of States.

Turning to the 1540 Committee, we wish to note that this Committee is currently revitalizing its expert capacities, which are, nevertheless, doing excellent work, which will enable the Committee, as far as possible, to deliver on its mandate. However, my delegation would like to recall — and this is a key concern for the Committee in the context of resolution 1977 (2011) — that the appointment of experts should take into account their expertise and the principle of geographic distribution. In my country's view, the resolution considers those two criteria as cumulative. We therefore hope that those criteria will retain the attention of the Council in order to make the Committee more inclusive and to allow a better reflection of the concerns of all regions.

Togo would like to invite States to consider, moreover, the work before these various entities, in particular the 1540 Committee, in order to consider strengthening it in terms of structure and technical manpower.

Finally, my delegation encourages the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities to continue working towards greater streamlining, in terms of criteria and listing and delisting procedures in order to prevent terrorists who have supposedly reformed or died in the meantime from taking up arms again, thus jeopardizing or undoing years of hard work and sacrifice.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): I would first like to thank Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu for their comprehensive briefings and to commend them for their work, leadership and commitment in chairing the three Committees focused on the fight against terrorism.

The statement to be made on behalf of the European Union naturally reflects Portugal's views on this important issue. Allow me, however, to emphasize some aspects of particular relevance to my country, starting with the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, which has produced some intensive and commendable work, particularly regarding the review of its sanctions list.

On the delisting side, we are pleased to express our appreciation for the significant improvements introduced by the Office of the Ombudsperson in the area of fair and clear procedures for delisting, thus reinforcing the sanctions mechanism and its efficiency. We take this opportunity to highlight once again the active role of Judge Kimberly Prost in achieving these goals according to her mandate. Like the United Kingdom, we have concluded an agreement for sharing classified information with Judge Prost, and we encourage other States to do the same. In our view, the success achieved so far and the role played by the Ombudsperson in that sanctions regime should encourage us to look at the next logical step — the introduction of the same mechanism into the framework of other United Nations sanctions regimes — an idea that deserves our active support and that of other members of the Council.

On the other side of that issue, and again in order to reinforce the efficiency of the sanctions regime, we believe that enhanced efforts should be made to continue to update the list in order to include those individuals and entities currently leading or supporting Al-Qaida or its affiliated groups but not yet listed. We also welcome the highly effective work that continues to be done under the Committee's guidance by its Monitoring Group.

Concerning the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, I would like to highlight three aspects. First is the need to encourage and assist States in developing comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism and preventive strategies: strategies that are not only devoted to law enforcement and reactive approaches, but are also designed to address the conditions conducive to radicalization and recruitment for terrorist purposes, which means that they must include consistent preventive efforts and measures of a structural and cross-cutting nature. We would advocate that the special meeting to be held by the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) later this year be devoted to that important matter.

Secondly, we very much value the attention given to the efforts made by CTC and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) to help strengthen, when requested, multilateral and bilateral technical assistance programmes to aid States and regions especially affected by terrorism. Indeed, a regional approach often seems to make for the most effective framework, by promoting regional solutions more tailored to realities on the ground and better adapted to respond to similar challenges and build on common strengths and capacities. In that regard we welcome the CTED thematic and regional presentations on West Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and the Maghreb.

Last but not least, let me reiterate the special importance of ensuring that counter-terrorism measures fully comply with obligations under international law, particularly in the areas of international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law is also, in our view, an indispensable tool for effective counter-radicalization and for combating terrorism narratives and appeals. In that regard, we continue to support the efforts undertaken by the Committee and CTED and look forward to the upcoming thematic presentation on human rights and counter-terrorism.

Turning now to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I want to commend its fulfilment of the main provisions set out in resolution 1977 (2011), namely, the first annual review on progress made by Member States and other stakeholders in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the recommendations put forward by the Committee for the establishment of a group of experts. The group of experts will play a fundamental role in assisting the Committee, and I share the sense of urgency about completing the process. Finally, I would also like to thank the Office for Disarmament Affairs for its readiness to engage with the 1540 Committee in supporting implementation of the resolution at the regional, subregional and national levels.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate our support for every measure that could be instrumental in maximizing coordination among all the United Nations entities relevant to efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. Among those tools, we believe that United Nations political missions and offices in the field — which are particularly well placed for assessing terrorism risks and forms of violent extremism — should be given mandates and resources adequate to advising and assisting on appropriate preventive efforts. As with many other international threats, we believe strongly that prevention is key to achieving medium- and long-term success in fighting terrorism.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Azerbaijan.

To begin with, I would like to thank Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu for their comprehensive briefings, and to express our appreciation for their second year of excellent work and professional leadership of the three Committees with counter-terrorism mandates.

Azerbaijan strongly supports close cooperation and effective coordination among those Committees. The presidential statement adopted by the Council last week (S/PRST/2012/17) reiterated the need for enhancing continued cooperation among the Committees and their groups of experts. Information exchange, joint outreach activities and country visits, coordinated activities with international and regional organizations, joint meetings and representation are all important tools for effective cooperation. In that regard, we are pleased to note the increased cooperation in some areas among the expert groups, and hope to see greater collaboration in other areas as well.

Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, I would like to underline the enormous importance of the full implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) by Member States, and to stress the crucial role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate in promoting and facilitating that implementation.

We welcomed the issuance earlier this year of the global survey of Member States' implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16). We were pleased with the survey's comprehensive approach, which included analysing the implementation by geographical region and by theme, assessing the evolution of challenges and identifying implementation gaps that Member States have encountered. We also commend the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate for new, practical approaches aimed at helping Member States strengthen their implementation, which in our opinion constitute the most important part of the survey and one to which States should give particular consideration.

Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, we share the view that Al-Qaida and its affiliates continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Azerbaijan welcomes the Committee's ongoing efforts to counter Al-Qaida-related terrorism. We agree that the Committee's practical approach to the Al-Qaida sanctions list, including its regular updates and review, contributes to universal and effective implementation of the sanctions. It is important that the Committee ensure that sanctions are fully implemented and appropriately adjusted to address current threats from Al-Qaida and its associates.

We would also like to mention the support rendered by the Monitoring Team through its outreach activities, including engaging with Member States and collaborating with various regional and subregional organizations and civil society. The Monitoring Team has played a crucial role in raising awareness and increasing knowledge of the sanctions regime, and we highlight in particular its contribution to completing narrative summaries for all the entries on the Al-Qaida list.

Azerbaijan is greatly appreciative of the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), in particular its close interaction with Member States. It is essential that the Committee continue to solicit national implementation reports from Member States and, with support from the Group of Experts, to work constructively with them to increase the number of such reports.

Meanwhile, we believe that finalizing the establishment of the group of experts that will assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate under resolution 1540 (2004) is crucial. However, in so doing, we cannot allow any region to be overrepresented in that small group of experts. In that regard, we reiterate our firm belief that broad geographical representation must be one of the major criteria in selecting appropriate experts to serve in the Group.

I resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. Arias (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I welcome the opportunity for my delegation to participate in this debate on the activities undertaken by the three Security Council Committees on the fight against terrorism. In that regard, we would like to fully endorse the content of the statement to be made by the representative of the delegation of the European Union.

We all know that terrorism is a global, complex and constantly changing threat that requires us to keep adjusting our response capacities. For that reason, we must continue to promote and to strengthen cooperation at all levels. We must not overlook the fact that the ideological factors behind organized crime, unresolved conflicts, alienation, social marginalization or the lack of peaceful integration in local communities often converge in terrorism. Therefore, apart from critical police and judicial activities, the response should often include an element of development.

One-sided or ad hoc solutions are not a valid option. A legitimate and systematic approach based on international cooperation is therefore needed. To that end, we have been developing a very satisfactory multilateral system in many respects. However, we are aware that there are still challenges in combating that scourge.

We may congratulate ourselves on having helped establish such an approach with, first, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus under General Assembly resolution 60/288 in 2006, which we will jointly review for the third time next June; secondly, relevant Security Council resolutions; and, thirdly, existing international legal instruments. The United Nations system has been undertaking significant work in the fight against terrorism. It must continue to play a prominent role as the guarantor of international law. Spain is committed to that.

In that regard, I wish to reiterate the strong commitment of Spain in the fight against all forms of terrorism, whatever its motive or manifestation. I would also like to reaffirm my Government's wish that such a task be an ongoing priority of the United Nations agenda.

In addition to our cruel experience of jihadist terrorism with the attacks of 11 March 2004, Spain suffered the blows of the Euskadi Ta Askatasuna terrorist organization for more than four decades. With unity and determination, we managed to defeat it through a democratic response, on the basis of our constitutional model of rights and freedoms, as well as international cooperation, which we greatly appreciate. We are a worthy example that, as States, we cannot successfully act alone in the fight against terrorism.

Spain demonstrates particular solidarity with the victims, who so often suffer, apart from the attack itself, the added injustice of rejection or neglect. We believe that our national legislation is an advanced model of recognition, protection and assistance for the victims of terrorism, whose spirit we wish to disseminate and promote at the international level. We also call for a new meeting to provide follow-up to the symposium on victims of terrorism, convened by the Secretary-General in New York in September 2008. That meeting gave significant impetus to giving a face and voice to such victims. We should be mobilized into providing assistance and support to victims of terrorism on moral grounds.

I wish to thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities; resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism; and resolution 1540 (2004) for the information provided and for their work with their respective groups of experts.

Spain would like to highlight the work of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. We value the Committee's efforts to increase the transparency of the system to review and update the names of persons and entities on the sanctions regime Consolidated List.

The adoption of resolution 1989 (2011) led to an improvement in the Committee's procedures and the calibre of the consolidated list. We underscore the need to continue to ensure that such procedures are impartial and transparent. We also emphasize the important role of the Ombudsperson in improving that impartiality and transparency. In that regard, we would also like to stress the important work of the Committee's Monitoring Team.

Spain would also like to underscore the work carried out by the Counter-terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED) in ensuring the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2011), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and the provision of technical assistance to countries that need it and request it. In that regard, I would like to point out the progress made regarding victims of terrorism with the adoption of resolution 1963 (2010), as it demonstrates deep solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families.

It is also worth mentioning CTED's efforts to execute its mandate. In particular, we support its work on technical assistance in implementing resolution 1373 (2001). Convinced of its very valuable contribution, we believe that its human and material resources should be strengthened to ensure stronger direct presence and assistance on the ground in the relevant countries.

The proliferation and possession of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors or by rogue States or those that violate international law are serious threats to international peace and security. We have shown our support for the 1540 Committee's efforts to design monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of that resolution and to further its universal application.

Spain welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), since it extends and strengthens the mandate of the 1540 Committee in the essential context of Member States' full and strict compliance with their obligations with regard to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in all its aspects. In that context, Spain wishes to underscore the work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and calls for further cooperation among all stakeholders in the fight against nuclear terrorism.

During this debate, the need to further improve cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups has been pointed out. We also deem it important that the United Nations system entities that depend on the Security Council, as well as those that are part of the Secretariat and most closely tied to the General Assembly, maintain smooth relations in a context of flexible and effective coordination, so as to allow for consistent, complementary and holistic action in our efforts to eradicate terrorism. Hence we welcome the announcement by the Secretary-General of his intention to establish a single coordinator in the combat against terrorism. We are ready to continue to reflect and debate as required to continue to improve the system that we have created, with a view to promoting the implementation of the Global Strategy through operational, rigorous, open and participatory procedures.

I should like to conclude by expressing my appreciation for the efforts of the three Committees to enhance the effectiveness of their work. It is also encouraging to see the growing awareness of the need for all measures to respect individual human rights. With this essential respect for human rights, the entire international community must demonstrate its firm resolve to tackle the barbarity of terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Kodama (Japan): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairs of the Council's three counter-terrorism-related Committees for their respective briefings this morning.

Last year, during the 10-year anniversary of the events of 11 September 2001, a special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee was held. At that meeting, we reviewed the progress made to date in the fight against terrorism and reaffirmed our commitment to zero tolerance for terrorism. In addition, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, new structures aimed at redoubling our efforts to counter terrorism, were established. It was a significant year in which we stepped forward into the next phase of the international fight against terrorism. This year as well we expect a great deal of active and constructive discussions in the Security Council.

Japan is actively participating in the Global Counterterrorism Forum and highly values its activities, including the opening of an international centre to counter violent extremism and the holding of several meetings of each working group to strengthen international cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism.

In the effort to advance international counter-terrorism efforts, we hope that the three committees and the various bodies of the United Nations will take further steps toward ensuring greater dialogue, cooperation and collaboration with relevant bodies such as the Forum and private-sector organizations, and that such efforts will produce synergistic effects, thereby improving the ability of all parties to deal with terrorism by integrating and sharing best practices.

Even in the next phase of the international fight against terrorism, the central role of the broad and continuous activities of the relevant bodies, especially the three committees, must not change. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of United Nations counter-terrorism measures.

In that regard, Japan values highly the activities of the Ombudsperson in the context of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), which maintain and enhance the legitimacy and credibility of the sanctions regime. We will continue to cooperate actively with the work of the Ombudsperson and the Committee.

Japan stands squarely behind the three Committees. At the same time, we deem it equally essential to make their activities more transparent and widely known. To that end, Japan hosted in Tokyo a series of seminars on the promotion of accession to the international counter-terrorism Conventions and Protocols. With regard to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), twice last year my Government hosted seminars here in New York on sanctions, non-proliferation and disarmament, including the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in order to facilitate the engagement of Member States and to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge. Together with Poland and Turkey, we will convene another meeting on 21 May here in New York.

In addition to global efforts, regional cooperation is key to materializing tangible outcomes in these areas. Japan has provided development assistance as well as support for capacity-building to countries in Asia. For example, for nearly two decades now Japan has spearheaded regional efforts by organizing Asian export-control seminars. That series of meetings, including one hosted in February of this year, has contributed to creating a wider regional network of experts from the Governments of East Asian countries. We understand that Germany also hosted a conference in Wiesbaden in April aimed at strengthening public-private collaboration in their region. Japan welcomes such initiatives, since we believe that, regardless of the membership of the Security Council, it is important to continue and strengthen such efforts at the regional level.

The United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, whose appointment was recommended by the Secretary-General, could ensure the consistency and integrity of all efforts by United Nations entities in the field of counter-terrorism. Japan recognizes the necessity of establishing that position and hopes to see active discussions on the initiative and its mandate in the Security Council. In that regard, it is necessary that in the establishment of a counter-terrorism coordinator, duplication be avoided.

We strongly hope that the three Committees will continue to fulfil their roles in close coordination with one another. At the same time, it will be important to deal with several of the issues facing the Committees. We need to enhance their cooperation with the relevant bodies as well as the Committees' legitimacy and credibility. We must also expand movements and make greater efforts at the regional level, as well as appropriately enhance the consistency and integrity of all activities concerning counter-terrorism in the United Nations.

The Government of Japan will continue to take all possible measures to cooperate positively in the efforts of the three Committees.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Austria.

Mr. Sajdik (Austria): I have the honour to address the Council on behalf of the informal group of like-minded States on targeted sanctions. This group comprises Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and my own country, Austria.

Let me join others in thanking the Chairs of the three Committees for their informative briefings. As the focus of our group is on strengthening the United Nations sanctions regimes through the implementation of fair and clear procedures, my remarks will concentrate on the Committee established pursuant to Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. Our group considers that targeted sanctions are a useful and necessary tool in maintaining international peace and security, including in effectively combating international terrorism. We therefore support strengthening the effectiveness of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime.

Almost a year after the adoption of resolution 1989 (2011), on 17 June 2011, it is suitable to take stock of its implementation. The members of our group were pleased to see that that resolution has given both the Ombudsperson and the designating State the mandate to recommend de-listings. This procedure, in particular by requiring consensus on the part of the Committee to reject a delisting recommendation, has already proved to be a significant step in providing due-process guarantees for listed individuals or entities. We applaud Ombudsperson Kimberly Prost for her highly professional and dedicated work and steadfast efforts to examine whether the criterion for a continued listing is fulfilled. For that to be the case, there must be an association of the individual, entity, group or undertaking with Al-Qaida.

Our group is of the firm view that the success of the Ombudsperson's work and the credibility of the Committee hinge in particular upon the following conditions. The provision of all relevant information, including confidential information, is key to enabling the Ombudsperson to carry out her mandate effectively and examine whether a de-listing request is justified. We therefore encourage all States to consider concluding agreements or arrangements for sharing confidential information with the Office of the Ombudsperson. Switzerland, Belgium, Costa Rica, Germany and Liechtenstein have already concluded such arrangements, while other members of our group, including my own country, will soon follow suit.

One of the cornerstones of the rule of law and of due process is the obligation to provide reasons for decisions affecting the rights of individuals or entities. Whereas situations might occur in which the Committee will not follow the Ombudsperson's recommendations, resolution 1989 (2011) obliges the Committee to give reasons for its decisions under all circumstances. This must apply all the more if recommendations are rejected by the Council on appeal by a member of the Committee. The rule of law must apply not only outside the United Nations, but also within the United Nations, in particular in situations in which actions by the United Nations may directly affect individual rights. The United Nations should lead the way in that regard.

Therefore, it is crucial that the Committee's procedures be closely followed. Resolution 1989 (2011) provides for a three-phase process: an information-gathering period, a dialogue phase and, finally, the Committee discussion. Respect for those procedures, including time limits, by the Committee, the Ombudsperson and all other relevant actors is essential for fairness and transparency and impacts on the overall image of the Committee.

The like-minded States reiterate their strong support for the mandate of the Ombudsperson and the strict implementation of resolution 1989 (2011) in order to safeguard the Council's commendable efforts in advancing fair and clear procedures and due process. We urge all Member States to take note of the fact that the Ombudsperson is mandated to conduct her work in an independent and impartial manner.

With a view to the renewal of the mandates of the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team at the end of this year, the like-minded group reaffirms its continued commitment to improving fair and clear procedures for targeted sanctions and to making United Nations sanctions more effective. On the basis of its letter to the Security Council of April 2011, the group is committed to tackling the remaining challenges and weaknesses of the current Al-Qaida sanctions regime and to supporting the Council in further improving the regime. Safeguarding the transparency of the process is definitely a key element. In that regard, the disclosure of the identity of the designating State is crucial.

Another very important issue impacting on the Office of the Ombudsperson concerns the duration of its mandate, which should be extended beyond the existing 18 months. In addition, adding a sunset clause for all designations would underline that the measures taken against individuals and entities are by nature preventive and temporary, and not punitive.

The need to strengthen fair and clear procedures is not limited to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, but is relevant to the other sanctions committees. A person de-listed by the Al-Qaida Committee upon recommendation of the Ombudsperson, but thereafter listed by another sanctions Committee can only approach the focal point for de-listing pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006), but no longer the Ombudsperson. However, the mandate of the focal point does not provide for procedures comparable to those of the Ombudsperson. That inequality of due process lacks justification.

We therefore continue to call for further steps to improve the procedural fairness and clarity of other sanctions regimes. Such steps should include aligning listing and de-listing procedures with resolution 1989 (2011) and the Ombudsperson process. That would greatly enhance the observance of the rights of the affected individuals and entities and thereby improve the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council's work.

Finally, let me state in my national capacity that Austria aligns itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): Ambassador Mehdiyev, I would like to personally congratulate you on your presidency of the Security Council this month and to thank you for convening this very important meeting. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Chairs of the counter-terrorism Committees for their briefings this morning and their continued efforts to strengthen the United Nations response to terrorism.

We have been discussing the issue of terrorism in this Chamber for decades, yet States still speak out about this challenge as if they were discussing a lightning strike. For too many, terrorism is abstract and remote until it finally strikes them. Allow me to assume the role of forecaster. Nearly every State in the Chamber will be affected by terrorism. And one thing is clear — the less we do to prevent terrorism today, the more we will face its deadly consequences tomorrow.

I would like to lend Israel's support to several positive developments within the United Nations system. It happens, sometimes. The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism indicated in its 2012 work programme that it would update the format of the preliminary implementation assessments. Any move to improve the quality of assessments is commendable. Israel believes that the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in facilitating technical assistance is especially important. All opportunities to match donors with recipient States should be vigorously explored.

In his recent report on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/762), the Secretary-General identified border control as an issue of critical concern. Israel agrees wholeheartedly. In that context, I would like to voice our support for the Council's presidential statement of 25 April on illicit cross-border flows (S/PRST/2012/16).

The close cooperation between the Ombudsperson and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities has brought about greater transparency and fairness in the sanctions regime. The improved procedures facilitate compliance with the regime. Israel appreciates the Ombudsperson's briefings to States on the activities of her office in the spirit of transparency and ongoing dialogue.

Finally, I wish to reiterate Israel's strong support for resolution 1540 (2004) and the Committee established to carry out its mandate. The international community has a clear duty to do whatever it takes to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the world's most dangerous terrorists and regimes.

Israel is proud to share its unique expertise with others in the global fight against terrorism. We are closely engaged in capacity-building initiatives with a number of States and regional organizations in Africa, South America and Asia. We are also working closely with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Our collaborative efforts span a range of issues, from money-laundering to terrorist financing and from aviation security to border protection.

People do not become terrorists in a vacuum. They are taught to hate and they learn to kill. We see this clearly in the Middle East today, where State-sponsored incitement fills schools, mosques and the media. Across the region, terrorism and martyrdom are being taught and glorified to the next generation.

The prevalence of incitement around the world calls for the international community's immediate action. Countering incitement and radicalization is one of the most effective counter-terrorism tools at our disposal. We must promote education that teaches peace instead of hate, tolerance instead of violence and mutual understanding instead of martyrdom.

Recent United Nations reports show how far we have to go on this issue. CTED revealed disturbing gaps in its recent global survey on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16). For example, it noted that relatively little attention is being paid to "preventing the subversion of educational, cultural, and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters", as called for in paragraph 3 of that resolution (*S/2012/16, para. 7*). States must act to stamp out institutionalized messages of hate.

The growing nexus between terrorism and transnational criminal networks presents another acute challenge. Hezbollah's activities offer one example of that disturbing trend. That terrorist organization has established itself as a major player in the global narcotics market, operating a network that spans from West Africa to the Middle East to Latin America. Hezbollah uses its global network to fund its terrorist activities and to provide the logistical support to carry them out. It is clear that today a straight line runs from picturesque fields of opium poppies to the pictures of bombs exploding in city centres.

The misuse of cyberspace is another area of growing concern. Increasingly, the web has become a central hub for spreading incitement and glorifying terrorism. It is also used for terrorist recruitment, instruction and financing. States must look for new tools to prevent such abuse. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members of the Security Council to join us next month in Israel for a major conference on cybersecurity. It will take place on 6 June at Tel Aviv University, under the auspices of the Yuval Ne'eman Workshop for Science, Technology and Security.

In the midst of technical discussions like this, we must never forget that each victim of terrorism has a face and a family, a name and a story. Two months ago, an Israeli diplomat named Tal Yehoshua Koren left our Embassy in New Delhi to pick up her children from school. An Iranian terrorist sped up beside her and attached a bomb to her car. It exploded, seriously injuring that innocent mother of two.

That same morning, the same network — and the same Government — attempted similar attacks on Israeli diplomats in Bangkok and Tbilisi. Many other plots by Iranian networks have been foiled, from Washington to Baku to Bangkok. We also see grave cause for concern in Syria, where Al-Assad terrorizes his own people, as he spreads terrorism around the world.

Each act of terrorism holds the potential for serious consequences that extend well beyond the borders of any particular nation. We see that today in southern Israel, where terrorists from Gaza — sponsored by Iran — continue to rain down rockets on 1 million Israeli civilians, day in and day out. One rocket that explodes in the wrong place at the wrong time could ignite a dangerous escalation in our region. Yet the Council has not condemned the rocket fire. It has not uttered a single word. It is time for all in this Chamber to finally wake up to that dangerous reality. I have said it before and I will say it again: today's silence is tomorrow's tragedy.

Terrorism is a changing and growing threat. Increasingly, terrorists are sponsored, funded and directed by Governments and working with criminals. In a world that has never been more connected, those networks have never had greater opportunities to cause devastating damage. The international community must stay one step ahead. The world does not have the luxury to stand idle. Complacency will breed catastrophe, and we will all bear the consequences.

History shows us that terrorism can strike anyone and anywhere. It could be me. It could be anyone here. It could be our families or our communities. Every State Member of this Organization should be clear about its choices. To turn a blind eye to terrorists is to choose terrorism. Overlooking incitement is choosing to educate the next generation of terrorists.

For the sake of our children, our nations and our common future, we must drain the swamps of hate and lawlessness that spawn terror — and hold all those accountable who support it.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

As this is the first time I have the chance to speak in this Chamber in the month of May, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and Azerbaijan on assuming the presidency of the Council and to thank the United States for its efforts during the month of April.

The acceding country Croatia, the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Thank you very much, Sir, for organizing this useful briefing. We appreciate the efforts of the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and we thank them for providing us with information on their activities and undertakings. Let me also underscore the essential role of the resolutions themselves in the global counter-terrorism efforts.

With regard to counter-terrorism-related sanctions, we welcome the further procedural improvements introduced to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime in June last year in resolution 1989 (2011). The Office of the Ombudsperson has made an important contribution to ensuring fair and clear procedures for individuals who seek delisting, and I am honoured to have been involved, in my former capacity as Ambassador, in the development of that Office. Pursuant to resolution 1989 (2011), we encourage designated individuals who are considering, or are in the process of, challenging their listings through national and regional courts to submit a petition for delisting to the Office of the Ombudsperson. We underline the importance of all relevant information being shared with the Office of the Ombudsperson, and that it particularly welcomes arrangements on the provision of confidential information.

Countering and preventing terrorism can be successful in the long run only when core universal values and the rule of law are respected, and international law — including human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law — are fully complied with. The promotion and protection of human rights is essential for all components of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that context, an international conference was organized on 12 March by Denmark, which holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union. The aim of the conference was to help identify ways to better bring counter-terrorism measures and capacity-building efforts into line with the requirements of human rights and the rule of law. That task is of utmost importance if we wish to succeed in our long-term efforts to counter and prevent the scourge of terrorism. We also look forward to the upcoming review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We commend the recent activities of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and look forward to its future work, in particular the upcoming workshops for Sahel and Maghreb countries. We welcome the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including, among others, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with its Terrorism Prevention Branch, as well as the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. We also look forward to the development of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

In addition, we welcome all efforts aimed at enhancing the visibility of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and at ensuring greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities, including, when appropriate, the contribution of relevant United Nations political offices and missions in the field. In that context, we welcome the Secretary-General's recommendation, for consideration by Member States, of the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, as a step towards further improving cross-institutional coherence in the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Finally, let me turn to the resolution 1540 (2004) regime. As recognized during the recent Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) will strengthen global efforts to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials. We strongly support the robust and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). To that end, the European Union is currently finalizing a new council decision focused on State assistance. We have also launched an extensive technical assistance programme on export control, focused in the first instance on neighbouring countries and which will be gradually expanded to South-East Asia and the Mediterranean. In that context, the European Union also co-sponsored the Conference of International, Regional and Sub-Regional Industry Associations on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Wiesbaden, Germany, in April.

The timing of today's joint briefing coincides with the regular European Union-United Nations political dialogue on counter-terrorism. I would like to conclude by underlining the importance that we attach to the close collaboration between the United Nations and the European Union.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month and for the admirable manner in which you are undertaking the task.

We have closely followed the briefings presented by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies in today's meeting, and we thank them for their statements.

Syria reaffirms its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its source or perpetrators, be they groups, individuals or States. Terrorism consists of criminal, aggressive and unjust acts that target the lives and property of innocent people, and its effects touch everyone without distinction.

Today started as a beautiful sunny day in most of the capitals of the world, but it was a bloody day in Damascus. Our capital was shaken by two suicide terrorist attacks that killed 56 innocent individuals and grievously injured 372 others; the remains of 15 individuals have yet to be identified. Those statistics characterized this morning in Damascus, in contrast to the morning enjoyed by all other capitals in the world. It is therefore appropriate that, on behalf of my Government, I today address the members of the Security Council on the subject of counter-terrorism.

At 7:30 a.m. local time, two suicide terrorist bombers exploded two vehicles laden with explosives in an neighbourhood of Damascus that is densely populated with civilians. The area has four schools, including a primary school, a preparatory school and a secondary school. The two explosions took place at a time when students were on their way to school. As I mentioned earlier, the explosions killed dozens of innocent victims, civilian and military. Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan quickly condemned the cowardly act, as did General Mood, chief of the United Nations observer mission. We expect the Security Council, under the wise leadership of its President, to condemn that cowardly act loudly and clearly, and to take a firm stance in addressing it in all its Arab, regional and international dimensions.

The explosion took place at the same time as another explosion in Aleppo this morning, which also claimed several civilian victims and did massive damage to private property.

Council members are well aware that, while Syria has witnessed a noticeable reduction in the level of violence, there has recently been an increase in the scale and frequency of terrorist activities and operations in the country. Extremist terrorist groups have emerged, using unusual criminal methods and carrying out organized terrorist operations based on extremist Takfiri edicts that label others as apostates and which are issued by inciters residing in countries well known to us all. These groups use suicide bombers, booby-trapped cars, explosive belts and packages to attack vital facilities and infrastructure and to sow fear among citizens. That is apparent in the terrorist explosions that have taken place in various areas around Damascus and Aleppo, as well as the two recent explosions in the province of Idlib, which the Security Council regrettably failed to condemn for unjustifiable political reasons.

The same applies to the terrorist explosion that took place yesterday in Daraa, targeting a convoy of the United Nations observer mission, which led to injuries among members of the Syrian security forces who were accompanying the convoy. That incident led the Secretary-General to condemn the explosion and all acts of violence, including the use of explosive devices in Syrian cities to target the forces of law and order, civilians and public and private property on a continuous daily basis; armed robbery, banditry, theft, vandalism, attacks on citizens in their homes and in their shops, in order to provoke and terrorize them; and the kidnapping of individuals for ransom, which is then used to support terrorist activities.

The number of army, police and security personnel kidnapped between 24 March to 26 April alone is 220 individuals. Some of those organized terrorist acts have carried the hallmarks of Al-Qaida method and ideology, including the mutilation of corpses, the killing of entire families on the basis of purely sectarian affiliation, and the carrying out of simultaneous suicide explosions in separate areas.

Since the beginning of the aforementioned events, we have conscientiously stressed that armed terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida are carrying out the atrocities in Syria, but many political parties and hostile media have cast doubt on our assertions. Today we are witnessing the public endorsement by groups and organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida of terrorist activities and operations carried out in Syria in response to appeals issued by leaders of Al-Qaida such as Ayman Al-Zawahiri, who has called for jihad in Syria.

Statements have also been made by the leaders of Western intelligence agencies, admitting that the Al-Qaida branch in a State bordering on Syria was behind the recent terrorist bombings in Damascus and Aleppo, following the infiltration by Al-Qaida elements into the ranks of the armed opposition fighting the Syrian Government. Arab and non-Arab media are reporting on a daily basis the deaths in Syria of foreign fighters of various nationalities in the course of undertaking terrorist operations. Indeed, some Al-Qaida-affiliated websites have been lamenting the loss of members of their groups in carrying out terrorist activities in Syria.

I have a list of 26 names of terrorists, some of whom are affiliated with Al-Qaida. We have transmitted the list to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council and the Chairman of its counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies. We also have recordings of those same individuals confessing that they are terrorists and had entered the country to carry out terrorist operations. This evidence is available from our delegation, and we are pleased to provide any member of the Security Council with copies.

Furthermore, we are in possession of copious documentary evidence of terrorist activities, all in English, and the names and citizenship of terrorists and those who have incited and supported them. Members of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the Chairmen of the Council's subsidiary bodies shall soon receive this evidence. We also have a list of the names of 12 foreign terrorists who have been killed in Syria, including a French, a British and a Belgian citizen. This list is also available from our delegation, and we request you, Sir, to distribute it among the members of the Security Council.

Terrorist operations cannot be carried out without financing and support in the form of funds, weapons and operatives. Unfortunately, some Arab States and States of the region and beyond have provided such resources to help armed terrorist groups carry out terrorist activities in Syria. Those countries have publically and openly pledged to provide support in the form of weapons, funds, training and safe havens to help terrorists carry out acts of terrorism and sabotage against the peace and security of the Syrian State and people. To that end, they are engaged in illegal cross-border movements from neighbouring States.

The smuggling of funds and weapons to armed groups is a reality encountered on a daily and even hourly basis by the customs authorities and border guards of Syria. High-level officials of Syria's neighbours have spoken publically about disrupting the smuggling of weapons, money and people into Syria. For example, on 20 March the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon spoke of the arrest by the Lebanese authorities of 27 individuals on charges of smuggling weapons into Syria. The Director of the General Security Service of Jordan has spoken of the detention by the Jordanian authorities of a number of individuals attempting to sneak weapons into Syria through our border crossings.

We have sent dozens of letters to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General on this topic. The most recent was that of 24 April concerning terrorists, most affiliated with Al-Qaida, who had been arrested in Syria following their infiltration of our borders for the purpose of undertaking terrorist operations. I should like to inform the Council that, on 27 April, the Lebanese authorities detained and seized the vessel *Lutfallah II*, which had sailed from Misurata, Libya, to Lebanon via Alexandria, Egypt, carrying 180 tons of weapons and advanced communications equipment, including rocket-propelled grenade launchers, French anti-tank and anti-aircraft launchers, and large amounts of TNT. This weaponry was intended to be smuggled into Syria for use in armed terrorist operations.

Statements have also been issued by certain armed terrorist groups, noting earlier successes in smuggling shipments of weapons, including American Stinger anti-aircraft rockets, into Syria. At the same time, a high-level official of the Libyan National Transitional Council had announced that 5,000 anti-aircraft had been misplaced or lost from Libyan arsenals. There have also been reports of Turkish and Libyan cooperation with other Arab and non-Arab States in sending lethal weapons to armed groups in order to sow death and destruction in Syria. I find it strange that the aforementioned ship entered Lebanese territorial waters via Egypt, passing without interdiction the positions occupied by the maritime units of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Agreements to conspire to smuggle weapons and to facilitate the entry of terrorists into Syria undermine all efforts to find a political solution to the crisis there and to facilitate the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions and Mr. Annan's peace plan. Indeed, they reflect an attempt to undo Mr. Annan's mission and a blatant attack on Syrian sovereignty.

The Security Council, at a meeting presided over by the President of Azerbaijan last week (see S/PV.6765), reaffirmed in presidential statement S/PRST/2012/17 its strong and unequivocal denunciation and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its perpetrators, location or purposes. We call on the Council to translate those words into deeds, to take the immediate actions necessary to stop all terrorist activities in Syria, and to exert maximum pressure on the States that are facilitating, financing and inciting the groups undertaking such activities to comply with the Council's resolutions concerning terrorism and Syria.

Terrorist acts have spilled the precious blood of our people. The day will come when we shall call to account all those who have taken part in, incited, financed or facilitated such activities. Terrorism is an international crime that requires an international response. That was the gist of the presidential statement issued on behalf of all members of the Council. Accordingly, the fight against terrorism cannot be selective, relative or subjective. It must match deeds to words. We also call on the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 1373 (2001) to complete their mandated tasks and to implement the substance of these resolutions with respect to events in Syria.

The terrorist activities now taking place in Syria, which target the stability of the State, the nation and society, are no less dangerous than the terrorist activities that targeted New York on 11 September and the terrorist activities that targeted Madrid and London. There is no righteous terrorism and malicious terrorism. There is only one terrorism that must be combated. The terrorism that targets Syria is the same as the one that targeted New York, London Madrid and other cities. There are also media, cultural, political and economic terrorism. It is all terrorism. There is no merit for a Member State of this Organization to finance the creation of a centre for counter-terrorism while it stands behind the incitement to terrorism and finances terrorist groups in my country. Terrorism is one and the same.

Finally, terrorism throughout the world is caused primarily by Zionist terrorism, which was initiated by Israel much earlier in the life of this international Organization. In 1954, Israel hijacked a Syrian aircraft. It was the first time ever that a civilian aircraft had been hijacked. Later, Israel carried out a series of terrorist activities that you are well aware of and which led to the displacement of millions of Palestinians from their homes. The course of Israeli terrorism has continued to this day. The words that you heard from the speaker who spoke before me were merely a distraction to divert attention from Israeli terrorism, the sole purpose of which is to undermine the possibility of establishing a Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza and to focus attention on issues other than State terrorism, a form of terrorism that is well-evidenced in thousands of documents issued by the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. White (Australia): Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address the Council today. I would also like to thank the Chairs of the three Committees, Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu, for their valuable and informative briefings and for their leadership of the key subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.

Unfortunately, as we know and have been reminded today, terrorism remains a key threat to international peace and security. Comprehensive and coordinated action remains essential if we are to address the threat of terrorism. To that end, Australia is strongly committed to promoting the universal and effective implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). We have conducted numerous outreach and capacity-building activities focused on assisting countries in developing and strengthening their legal frameworks and technical capabilities. In the past two years, Australia has provided counter-terrorism financing, capacity-building and technical assistance to over 30 countries in the Pacific, South-East Asia, South Asia and Africa. This is an area in which Australia has particular expertise and which we are committed to sharing with others.

In relation to resolution 1373 (2001), in June the International Organization for Migration will hold a border security workshop in Nigeria, which Australia is sponsoring. We are also supporting a new United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime programme of work on counter-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering in Kenya and Somalia. This builds on a workshop Australia presented for East African Community countries last month on counter-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering.

We were also pleased to have the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Ambassador Sangqu, speak at the fourth Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in Sydney in March. That meeting was an important opportunity to raise awareness of the work of the 1540 Committee and to share best practices on strengthening resolution 1540 (2004) in the Asia-Pacific region, and we would like to acknowledge Ambassador Sangqu's important contribution.

Australia remains committed to promoting the implementation of the resolutions on counter-terrorism and to assisting countries to build and develop their capacities both in our region and beyond. More broadly on the United Nations counter-terrorism agenda, Australia looks forward to a constructive review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June, in which we will engage actively. We welcome the suggestion for the establishment of a new counter-terrorism coordination position and see great benefit in greater cooperation among United Nations entities to ensure coordination and coherence in counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

I now wish to make some comments on the 1267 Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Australia believes in the importance of the United Nations setting an example with regard to the principles it seeks to promote. As the Secretary-General has noted recently in his latest report entitled "Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels" (A/66/749), the application of basic rule-of-law principles is crucial to the legitimacy of actions taken by the principal organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. This is a key part of strengthening the rule of law at the international level.

We strongly support efforts to improve the fairness, transparency and effectiveness of United Nations sanctions system procedures. To ensure that only the appropriate people and entities remain listed, it is crucial for individuals and entities to understand the reasons for their listing and to be afforded the opportunity to provide information so that delisting can occur when appropriate. It is also important for the Security Council sanctions system to be able to withstand domestic legal challenge if it is to remain effective.

We believe that the establishment of the Ombudsperson for the 1267 sanctions regime has been an important step forward in strengthening fair procedures, particularly in relation to delisting requests. In that regard, we wish to acknowledge and thank Ms. Kimberly Prost for her tireless efforts, including her active outreach activities and in keeping the Security Council apprised of her Office's activities. The Office has only been operational a short time and yet has established a substantial caseload, resulting in 13 individuals and 23 entities being delisted. Without the Ombudsperson's recommendations, such individuals may well have remained inappropriately subject to the effect and stigma of sanctions.

Australia was particularly pleased with the strengthened role of the Ombudsperson provided by resolution 1989 (2011), which served to increase the transparency of the listing and delisting processes. In terms of delisting, the changes ensure that greater weight is given to the Ombudsperson's recommendations through the Committee process. That strengthens the independence of the Office and also the ability of the petitioner to be heard. Due process is also strengthened by the emphasis given in resolution 1989 (2011) to the provision of reasons by the Committee, such as when the Committee has decided to reject a delisting request.

As a practical matter, Australia believes that the delisting process can work effectively only if the Ombudsperson has the relevant information needed to enable her to make an informed recommendation to the Committee. Recommendations should be made on the basis of complete information. Providing a petitioner with detailed reasons as to why their delisting request was accepted or denied is fundamental to ensuring that due process is followed. Australia has, along with a number of other States whose representatives spoke today, concluded arrangements with the Office of the Ombudsperson to share confidential information. We urge all Member States to consider entering into similar arrangements and to cooperate fully with any requests for information by the Ombudsperson.

Finally, as recommended by the Secretary-General last year in his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule-of-law activities (S/2011/634), Australia considers that further consideration should be given to extending the mandate of the Ombudsperson across other sanctions regimes. We recognize the role of the delisting focal points in relation to the other regimes, and we also recognize that the Al-Qaida sanctions regime is of a different nature from the others. However, in our view, we should consider extending the level of protection provided by the Ombudsperson to the other regimes. Greater uniformity across the regimes could serve to improve the overall effectiveness of the United Nations sanctions system.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Nazarian (Armenia): I thank the members of the Security Council for the opportunity to participate in this briefing. Armenia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. However, we would also like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

We appreciate the efforts of the Chairs of the Committees aimed at strengthening dialogue and mutual understanding among States, the United Nations and civil society in combating the scourge of terrorism. Armenia is fully committed to working with the Committees established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999) and 1989, and 1540 (2004), and we are determined to contribute to all actions undertaken by the United Nations in their support.

In particular, we are continuing our close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). At the national level, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate has prepared a list of recommendations and updated its preliminary implementation assessment of Armenia. Armenia has already submitted five detailed, comprehensive reports, and we will continue our constructive dialogue aimed at the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

Armenia has already demonstrated its commitment to combating terrorism and has lent its support to the international efforts against it. We are a State party to United Nations, Council of Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States counter-terrorism instruments, and have enacted the national legislation necessary to their timely implementation, while effectively observing the rule of law and human rights, which are fundamental to the fight against terrorism. As noted in the report of the most recent CTC visit to my country, Armenia has enacted legislation in conjunction with the requirements of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; moreover, the Armenian Government has introduced further amendments in connection with counter-terrorism financing legislation.

Looking at the issue of counter-terrorism from a regional perspective, and given the geographic position of the countries in our region, we believe that those countries could benefit from the establishment of common mechanisms for developing a more coordinated approach to combating terrorism. Unilaterally, we have adopted practical and effective border-control measures, and have demonstrated a strong interest in acquiring more technology and equipment of the kind necessary to further enhance the existing border security regime. However, the fact that borders with some of our neighbours are closed has discouraged regional border security cooperation in that very sensitive geostrategic area.

In that context, I would like to express our concern, noting that a number of recent reports by international and regional organizations clearly reflect the fact that the territory of our neighbour Azerbaijan is actively used by various terrorist and religious extremist groups and structures, and serves as a safe haven for their criminal activities. Those groups have sought to move people, money and weapons through the Caucasus, and international organizations have issued alarming assessments of Azerbaijan's counter-terrorism efforts. The close links between the Azerbaijan authorities and the terrorist groups affiliated with Al-Qaida who fought in the war against Nagorno Karabakh in the early 1990s are also widely known and documented. Because of the transnational nature of the crime of terrorism and the lack of regional cooperation, we have to be vigilant and not allow this situation to continue to be exploited by radical elements for the purpose of recruitment for terrorism and provocations.

Lastly, addressing the fight against terrorism from an international standpoint, Armenia firmly believes that international and regional organizations must strengthen their cooperation, including by assisting with know-how and other related help. In that context, we would welcome cooperation between NATO and States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization through bilateral means in areas of mutual interest relating to the fight against terrorism.

Today, the international community is united in condemning terrorist acts, providing unique momentum for a comprehensive approach to cooperating in the adoption of effective tools and mechanisms for eliminating terrorism. I assure the members of the Council of Armenia's commitment and readiness to work with the Committees, and I thank the Chairs for their valuable participation. We look forward to continuing our work on this important issue.

The President: I will now make a short statement in my national capacity.

It is unfortunate that the representative of Armenia has attempted to use the opportunity of our debate to make groundless, propagandistic statements. It is well known that international Armenian terrorism has bloody, historic antecedents in the perpetration of numerous terroristic acts in various countries and the killing of thousands of innocent people.

I would like to inform the Security Council that yesterday a letter was sent to the Secretary-General containing information on facts that attest to Armenia's organization and implementation of numerous terrorist acts against Azerbaijan and other countries. That information affords Council members and the broader international community an opportunity to make their own assessment of the matter and to draw conclusions about this hopeless attempt by Armenian propaganda to mislead the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no more speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.6768

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6768th meeting

Thursday, 10 May 2012, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Mehdiyev	(Azerbaijan)
Members:	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Araud
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Kandangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Libya

Letter dated 23 March 2012 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/178)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

Letter dated 23 March 2012 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/178)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ian Martin, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on the agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/178, which contains a letter dated 23 March 2012 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Martin.

Mr. Martin: Libya is approaching a key moment in its democratic transition. On 1 May, the registration of voters opened for the election of a national congress — the first election since those that took place, under considerable limitations, more than 45 years ago. The High National Elections Commission reported that, by last night, some 1,024,000 voters had registered at over 1,500 registration centres throughout Libya. I will later indicate the difficulties facing the electoral process, but that is no small achievement.

There continue to be other positive signs that Libya is moving towards democracy. Following the local election in Misrata in February, a number of other cities have planned to elect local councils, some in the coming weeks. Libyans are increasingly exercising their freedom of speech; free media is developing at a rapid pace; and civil society organizations, many of them led by young people and women, are being established across the country. There is a strong desire on the part of the public to be active and involved and to be consulted on matters of local and national interest — a right of which they have been deprived for the past 42 years — as well as a determination to hold their leaders accountable. One can clearly sense that, for the first time in a generation, people are unafraid to speak out.

In the context of that newly found freedom, local conflicts and tensions that existed before the revolution, but were repressed, are surfacing more clearly. Some of those tensions have escalated into armed conflict, testing the reach and authority of the Government's security apparatus and its ability to impose the rule of law.

On 26 March, fighting erupted between Tabu and Arab brigades in Sabha, the major city of south-west Libya. The situation rapidly deteriorated over a five-day period of fighting, resulting in 147 dead and approximately 500 wounded. At the outbreak of the fighting, a joint delegation of the Government and the National Transitional Council (NTC) was dispatched to Sabha to lead negotiations for a ceasefire, with the support of local tribal and security leaders. The Ministry of Defence deployed troops from the national army, supported by revolutionary brigades from outside the area, to help secure and enforce the ceasefire. United Nations agencies and the International Organization for Migration provided humanitarian assistance to the displaced families in the area.

Soon after, on 1 April, fighting broke out between the western Libyan towns of Zuwara, on one side, and Al-Jumail and Regdalin, on the other. Clashes, reportedly involving heavy weapons, continued for three days, until a 48-hour ceasefire was agreed. Unconfirmed reports indicate that 48 people lost their lives. The Government responded rapidly by dispatching a force to the area to enforce the ceasefire — a mix of national army and Ministry of Interior units and revolutionary brigades from various cities. There has been a history of conflict between the two sides, usually ascribed to ethnic differences, attitudes toward the previous regime and rivalry for control of smuggling routes. I visited the area in late April and met in all three cities with local officials and civil society, who voiced their support for the reconciliation efforts under way by the Government and the NTC.

On 21 April, fighting erupted for the second time this year in the south-east town of Kufra, between the Tabu community and elements from the national army which had been deployed to the area in February to enforce the ceasefire. The NTC dispatched a delegation, together with the Ministry of Defence, to negotiate a 48-hour ceasefire. The ceasefire was broken 24 hours after it began with increased clashes, including the reported use of heavy weapons. In an effort to halt the clashes, the Minister of Defence visited the communities on 25 April, and, though the situation continues to be tense, the fighting has subsided. Unconfirmed reports indicate that several persons were killed and dozens wounded.

In each case, the Government took swift action in deploying forces and mediation capacities immediately after the conflicts started, and with each case the Government's reaction improved and lessons learned were taken into consideration. Each case has further highlighted the fact that rapid action is necessary to defuse local tensions and prevent their entrenchment. But, in addition to the immediate response, in these cases as well as in other cities such as Bani Walid and Sirte, the provision of long-term security, the delivery of services and the pursuit of reconciliation are then required to fully address these conflicts. Unfortunately, these conflicts have compounded an already complex and ambitious workload for the NTC and the Government, forcing them to divert attention from other key priorities.

Meanwhile, the Government has also faced disturbances resulting from discontent among some of the armed brigades. The most contentious issues are perceived inequities in the treatment of war wounded and the decision to suspend payments to former revolutionary fighters while procedures are put in place to properly regulate the disbursement of funds. The latest incident at the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday, in which one person was killed and others injured, indicates the seriousness of that discontent, but it also displays a growing Government determination and capacity to confront those taking to violence in pursuit of their demands.

There is progress in the area of economic recovery. Currently, some 1.4 million barrels a day of oil are being produced. Individuals, for the most part, now have access to their bank deposits. There are visible signs of new commercial activity. With the approval of the budget, smaller construction projects are able to be resumed. The overall reconstruction process will not be fully operational until the return of foreign companies and investors, currently inhibited by security concerns, though Libyan private-sector companies are resuming activities. Two international trade conferences took place in Tripoli during the month of April, offering the Government the opportunity to present its investment and management plans for the country's reconstruction and future development. On 29 March, the Ministry of Planning hosted a meeting with the international community to present the Government's strategic plan, which builds on the 10 transitional goals outlined by the interim Government in November and articulates sectoral plans and targets that will serve as a foundation for the Government's activities, as well as the coordinated support of international partners.

However, the scale of the challenges, coupled with the high expectations of the Libyan people for tangible and quick progress, has strained the interim political system. Five months have passed since the appointment of the Government, and, though all parties understood that the tasks set forth for the transitional authorities were ambitious, both the executive and legislative branches have become increasingly frustrated by the lack of progress in a number of sectors. The NTC has been requesting explanations in that regard, and there have been debates within the NTC about a possible no-confidence vote in the Government. Such debates show a commitment to democratic accountability, but have created a sense of instability in an already fragile system. It is important that the executive and legislative branches work together to ensure that tangible progress, especially on security and the decentralization of Government services, can be seen by the citizens of Libya in the short time that remains prior to the elections and a new Government.

The transitional authorities at the national and local levels deserve credit for returning the country to relative normalcy and maintaining an environment in which people are living and working freely, children are going to school and basic services are available. But the Libyans' expectations of concrete progress in the post-revolution period are strongest in relation to security, where ordinary Libyans would like to see a coherent process of rebuilding institutions, establishing the rule of law and integrating the revolutionary forces. Major challenges and gaps remain, and the United

Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) continues to support the Government's efforts in these areas.

UNSMIL's police advisers, embedded within the Ministry of the Interior, continue to provide support in the areas of training, border security, logistics, election security and media outreach. UNSMIL continues to co-chair the international coordination mechanism, with a view to assisting the Ministry in the development of its priorities and plans and coordinating the international community's bilateral offers of assistance, so as to ensure that they best address the needs of the Libyan police.

A long-term plan is under way for the comprehensive reform and restructuring of the Ministry of Interior, including the police, and will require significant enhancement of capacities in the areas of effective decision-making, management and strategic planning. At the same time, recent crises have led to the call for an acceleration of efforts to rehabilitate the Libyan armed forces, and the Minister of Defence and Chief of Army Staff have asked bilateral and international partners to coordinate their efforts in that respect.

A key issue related to public security is the integration or demobilization of the revolutionary fighters and the control of weapons. The Libyan public regards advances in this respect as a key measure of overall post-revolutionary progress and Government performance. So far, results in this area have been mixed. Given the weak capacity of the State security apparatus to absorb immediately the revolutionary fighters, the Government has developed an interim mechanism in the form of a Supreme Security Committee (SSC), operating under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, with branches across the country. It is positive that the SSC goes some way towards providing a unified command and control of the brigades and limits their fragmentation. It has also provided the State with a pool of auxiliary forces for quick dispatch alongside the national army to crisis areas. Thus far, according to the Ministry of Interior, approximately 60,000 to 70,000 fighters have registered to take part in the SSC. But as the SSC was designed as a temporary body, the challenge is now to plan for their eventual integration into the Ministry, as it undergoes its own reform processes. It is essential that the transition take place as a matter of priority, so that the SSC does not become a parallel security structure.

Meanwhile, the Warriors Affairs Commission continues to register fighters and some weapons, and is working with the Ministry of Labour to determine the civilian job opportunities available. Stronger coordination of plans for integration, demobilization and reintegration is needed to avoid confusion and duplication of effort, and planning needs to go on to address further the control of weapons and disarmament.

A key concern for Libya, and equally for its neighbours, the wider region and international partners, continues to be border security. The Libyan authorities currently face severe capacity and capability limitations. A new border security and strategic installations protection force is being established; the Libyan armed forces need to be rehabilitated; the Libyan customs service has been depleted of most of its resources; and police and immigration services require strengthening and training in almost all areas of their responsibilities. Establishing effective border security and management mechanisms will take years and is a complex task. It requires a whole-of-Government approach, across several key ministries, and coordination and collaboration between the different security organs of the State, at all levels. Sustained international focus and assistance will be essential.

The United Nations will continue to support those efforts by providing advice, expertise and coordination, in close cooperation with the Libyan authorities and their bilateral partners. A key priority remains developing an urgent action plan for improved security and integrated control of the southern border, under joint command and control structures. The United Nations and bilateral partners stand ready to work with the Libyan authorities on such a plan, which would facilitate the provision of international assistance to the various agencies involved.

While I continue to believe that the Libyan Government is committed to ensuring its citizens' access to justice and the rule of law, serious obstacles are hampering the process. Thousands of prisoners remain in conflict-related detention. The transfer of prisons and detainees to the custody of the Ministry of Justice is progressing only slowly. The Ministry has stated that 31 facilities — holding some 3,000 detainees — are now under its control. Control over those facilities is often shared with other parties, including the brigades that had been running them. An additional number of detainees — perhaps around 4,000 — are still in the custody of brigades, either at formal or secret detention facilities.

Cases of mistreatment and torture of detainees continue. Recently, UNSMIL expressed deep concern regarding the deaths of three individuals at a detention centre in Misrata controlled by the Supreme Security Committee, and therefore under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior. The deaths all occurred on 13 April, and we have credible information that they were a direct result of torture, as well as information that at least seven other persons were tortured at the same facility.

I have pressed both the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior about the need to investigate those cases and to prevent further abuse through a robust inspection regime. The Supreme Security Committee of Misrata publicly condemned those acts and committed its support to investigations and appropriate legal action. We will work with the Libyan authorities to ensure that there is follow-up on those cases, as well as with regard to allegations of torture that we have received from elsewhere in Libya, including detention facilities in Tripoli, Zawiya and Zintan.

Addressing those practices should be a top Government priority in pursuit of a new culture of human rights and the rule of law in post-revolution Libya. In that respect, new Government bodies were established in the past two months to investigate human rights complaints. Those incidents also underline the importance of accelerating the transfer of detainees into the custody of the Ministry of Justice, where they will be guarded by judicial police.

UNSMIL is engaging closely with the Libyan prison administration to address its capacity gaps, and is urging the adoption of an overall prosecutorial strategy in relation to the legacy of the former regime and the conflict. Such a strategy could significantly contribute to building trust in the legal system.

Progress is also needed on the implementation of other aspects of transitional justice, including the formal appointment of members of the fact-finding and reconciliation commission established by the transitional justice law and the search for and identification of missing persons.

On 2 May, the NTC adopted several new laws, including a law granting amnesty for some crimes, a law on criminalizing the glorification of the dictator and a law on some procedures for the transitional period. The last of those stipulates that the Ministries of the Interior and Defence shall take measures concerning conflict-related detainees by referring them for prosecution or release within a two-month period. If implemented with proper respect for human rights standards, that could constitute a step forward in resolving cases of conflict-related detention in Libya.

Other aspects of the laws are of concern and have been criticized by Libyan lawyers, including by the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights, which was created by the NTC itself. The language used with respect to amnesty is ambiguous, and therefore open to different interpretations, as it depends upon whether acts are deemed as having been "to promote or protect the revolution". We are seeking clarification that those laws will be applied in a manner that respects international human rights standards, including the prohibition of amnesties for war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of human rights. The criminalization of speech against the new authorities is an infringement on the freedom of expression, not compatible with the principles of Libya's Constitutional Declaration or with international standards.

The mounting challenges that Libya's transition has to overcome, especially with regard to security, make it urgent that issues of legitimacy be settled through early electoral processes. The Libyan people need to feel that their Government is chosen by and accountable to them. I am therefore pleased to report the progress in the preparations for the National Congress elections.

As requested by the Libyan authorities, the United Nations has expanded its support to the High National Elections Commission by reinforcing its advisory role, supporting voter education, procuring registration and polling material and coordinating electoral assistance efforts from other international organizations. The United Nations integrated electoral team of personnel from UNSMIL, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services is now co-located with the Elections Commission Administration in Tripoli and deployed to three field locations — Tripoli, Benghazi and Sabha.

The Elections Commission had to establish sub-offices, identify warehouses and recruit and train staff, at the same time as adopting numerous regulations and by-laws, including those related to voter registration, candidate and entity nomination and the observation process. As I reported at the beginning of my statement, between 1 and 9 May, just over 1 million people had registered as voters. So far, the registration of women has been relatively low — accounting for about 36 per cent of those registered.

Because of the lack of reliable population figures and the very specific demographics of Libya, it is extremely difficult to establish a reliable estimate of the eligible voter population; educated guesses put the figure between 3 and 3.5 million. The initial registration figures, while encouraging, show that the pace of registration will need to increase during the second week of registration, and indeed, daily registration figures have accelerated over the past few days.

The registration of candidates and political entities presenting lists for the proportional races also started on 1 May, and was scheduled to be conducted over an eight-day period. In response to strong representations by political entities, on 7 May the Commission decided to extend the period for an additional week, to end on 15 May. The overall number of registered candidates and political entities is very encouraging, with 1,100 individual candidates and 47 political entities registered thus far.

While the initial pace of candidate and political entity registration was slow, the pace has consistently gained momentum and has continued to do so following the extension of the nomination period. Among individual candidates, however, the number of women coming forward has been extremely low — only 29 so far. That is disappointing, but perhaps unsurprising, as most women who want to run prefer to be included in the lists of political entities, which, by law, must include alternating male and female candidates.

Voter education has been a serious challenge in the process. The Elections Commission has produced in-house, nationwide voter education materials that include a poster campaign, newspaper inserts, text messages and public service announcements on television. Regrettably, the process started late, and a major increase in such activities is urgently needed.

Voter registration has proceeded with few security problems. A full election security plan is still being developed, with high-level Government attention and the strong involvement of UNSMIL's police advisers. The Ministry of the Interior has established an election security committee to coordinate all activities among the police directorates and districts, as well as among other security elements. The Ministry has designed and started to implement, under the guidance and assistance of UNSMIL police experts, extensive training programmes for all police officers who will be involved in election security.

Logistical, communication and vehicle shortages may impede the implementation of the election security plan, and local arrangements will be crucial. It is essential that all security agencies come together effectively to implement the plan.

The outcome of the voter registration process, the registration of political entities, the complaints and management process, and — perhaps most important — the vetting of the candidates by the Integrity and Patriotism Commission, will be key factors affecting the timeline.

Political entities have publicly voiced concerns with regard to the short time allotted to voter registration and candidate nomination processes, especially in the light of the weak state of civic education and political entity development. Nevertheless, a number of political parties and entities are emerging — holding congresses, developing manifestos and electing their leadership bodies. That is a healthy and concrete sign of the development of the democratic process.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the High National Elections Commission — a body that began its work less than four months ago with zero electoral experience — for its commitment and continued efforts to carry forward the electoral operations, in difficult conditions and an extremely limited time frame.

Elections are part of the transition; they are not the beginning and not the end. Elections will help to address some of the issues that plague the transitional authorities, but following the elections Libyans must recommit themselves to serious long-term State-building. While the Constitutional Declaration stipulates that the national congress will be a transitional body and that elections for a long-term legislative structure will take place one year from this election, the incoming national congress will have several important tasks. They include the formation of a new Government, the appointment of the constitutional commission and reviewing and adopting important legislation, including the next electoral law. Given that it will be the first elected legislative body in Libya in the past half century, UNSMIL and UNDP are consulting with various stakeholders to prepare to provide both procedural and substantive support both to the national congress and the constitutional commission. While the democratic transition will move on to a new phase, UNSMIL's support to public security, human rights, transitional justice, the rule of law and arms proliferation and border security will also remain priorities for assistance to the new authorities.

As I have repeatedly said in the Chamber, we must constantly remind ourselves of the terrible legacy and tremendous difficulties that the Libyan authorities are facing in establishing a functioning State based on the rule of law and democracy. They should be credited with the degree of stability and the achievements thus far. At the same time, the international community should be frank with them and with ourselves in continuing to identify the challenges and gaps, while remaining committed to supporting Libyans in their quest for democracy and stability with technical advice and practical support. A stable democratic Libya is in everyone's interest.

The President: I thank Mr. Martin for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Moraes Cabral in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), concerning Libya.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): I have the honour to report to the Security Council on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011). The report covers the period from 1 March to 10 May 2012. For the sake of brevity, I will focus my remarks on the most relevant aspects and read out an abridged version of my statement, as a hard copy of the entire report will be distributed and posted on the Committee's website.

As the Council knows, two important documents were before the Committee. The first was a working document (S/2012/178, annex) put together by the Panel of Experts — reflecting the contributions of the Panel, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency — on the threats and challenges of arms proliferation from Libya to the region. The second was a final report (S/2012/163, annex) by the Panel on its monitoring of the implementation of the relevant measures, including the arms embargo, the travel ban and the asset freeze. Both documents are now publicly available on the Committee's website. Allow me to refer to the document on arms proliferation, which I believe should constitute a main area of concern. Key findings included the following.

First, at the time of the writing of the report, no man-portable air defence systems (MANPADs) originating from Libya had been seized outside the country. Nevertheless, significant threat variables existed, justifying further measures to mitigate the risk that MANPADs might pose.

Secondly, there was clear evidence that significant quantities of weapons other than MANPADs had left Libya during the conflict, in particular small arms and light weapons and associated ammunition, as well as explosives, and that certain existing factors could encourage further proliferation.

Thirdly, the increased supply of weapons and related materiel in the Sahel region was likely to have fuelled pre-existing insecurity, particularly in northern Mali.

Fourthly, all levels of authorities in Libya needed to be engaged in the overall efforts to control weapons and combat illicit trafficking.

Finally, at the regional level, attention had to be given to strengthening border control, enhancing regional cooperation and coordination efforts, increasing the exchange of information and curbing the specific threat related to MANPADs. The document concluded with specific recommendations to counter the threat of illicit arms proliferation in the subregion and the Sahel region.

Let me now turn to the final report of the Panel of Experts in accordance with resolution 1973 (2011). Among other things, it covers cases of transfers of military materiel to and from Libya since the imposition of the arms embargo, cases of non-compliance with the travel ban and cases of non-compliance with the asset freeze. In its report, the Panel of Experts made a total of 21 recommendations, addressed either to the Security Council, the Committee or Member States, including Libya. Both the Council and the Committee have already taken follow-up action on several of the recommendations.

On 9 April, the members of the Committee agreed to invite the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL, Mr. Ian Martin, to a meeting of the Committee, in order to hold an exchange of views on five of the Panel's recommendations, as well as to discuss the working relationship between UNSMIL and the Panel. Yesterday, the members of the Committee held a fruitful exchange of views with Mr. Martin. I look forward to further exchanges of that nature with him. I believe that close interaction among the Committee, the Panel of Experts and UNSMIL is of particular importance to ensuring efficient coordination and avoiding overlaps. We have also scheduled a meeting of the Permanent Representative of Libya with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

As of 9 May, the Committee had processed a total of 38 notifications or exemption requests concerning the arms embargo, a total of 154 notifications or exemption requests concerning the asset freeze and a total of 25 requests for guidance.

I would like to conclude by noting that, to date, the Committee has received reports from 57 Member States on their implementation of the relevant measures. On 2 April, I dispatched a note verbale to all Member States that contained a reminder for those that had not yet submitted their implementation reports to the Committee to do so without delay. On the same day, the Committee updated its list of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and asset freeze, incorporating the new information provided by the Panel.

The President: I thank Ambassador Moraes Cabral for his briefing.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.